



EFN Policy Statement on Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Continuous Professional Development is understood as *“The systematic maintenance, improvement and continuous acquisition and/or reinforcement of the lifelong knowledge, skills and competences of health professionals. It is pivotal to meeting patient, health service delivery and individual professional learning needs. The term acknowledges not only the wide ranging competences needed to practise high quality care delivery but also the multi-disciplinary context of patient care (EC, 2014).”*

The EFN recognises the right and duty of continuous professional development (CPD) for nurses in the light of delivering high quality and safe care. CPD helps to ensure that nursing practice is up-to-date, contributing to improve patient outcomes and increasing the public confidence in the profession.

The EFN calls on European and national policy-makers to:

- Ensure that nurses in all Member States are able to access CPD activities in accordance with Member States’ obligation under the revised Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications.
- Adopt measures to guarantee access to CPD: available time, human resources and cost. Cooperation and agreements among competent authorities, employers and professionals organisations should address these issues.
- Develop CPD activities for multidisciplinary health teams in order to respond to the increasing collaboration among health professionals and the integration of care.
- Research the impact of CPD on patient outcomes and improve the systems/content of CPD, in particular as regards the relation between CPD and patient safety and quality of care, including patient empowerment and health literacy.
- Make the information on health professionals’ CPD collected in the context of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications available to the public. The European Commission should develop a proposal to bring actions out of the data collected.

EFN Policy Statement – April 2015

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