



EFN Policy Statement Nurses Combatting Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has been high on the political agenda of many international and European institutions. The European Commission estimates that antibiotic-resistant bacteria have been associated with the death of 25,000 people in the European Union (EU) alone; while the extra healthcare costs and productivity losses associated with AMR cost the EU at least €1.5 billion each year.

The EFN:

- Promotes the advanced and specialist roles of nurses – infection control nurses in particular – to support programmes to reduce the risk and burden of AMR.
- Reminds that nurses are uniquely placed to contribute within public health, infection prevention, antibiotic stewardship and coaching roles, all of which are key to combat AMR;
- Sees nurse prescribing and medication reconciliation, through eHealth services platforms, as a key solution to tackle AMR;
- Endorses a high level of education for all health professionals to making sure teamwork becomes the driver for change;
- Requests the EU Council Presidencies and G7 acknowledges the value of nurses' contribution to combat AMR and support each member state to ensure nursing is represented at all AMR national level programme boards;
- Supports the use of rapid diagnostic technologies to enable decision making on antibiotic prescribing and encourage all member states to support nurses to use and manage such technologies;
- Encourages DG Sante and ECDC to embrace nurses' views into the European Public Health Programme: *“Investing in Nurses – Investing in Safety”*

The EFN believes that nurses have an important role to play in two key areas: informing and motivating the public; and, the preventing and management of infections. As nurses have closer and more frequent contact with patients and carers and undertake the role of care coordinator, they are ideally placed to lead antimicrobial resistance reduction and antibiotic stewardship programmes.

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) represents over three million nurses and is the independent voice of the profession. The mission of the EFN is to promote the interests, status and practice of the profession of nursing in the EU.

Please contact Dr Paul De Raeve, Secretary General of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for more details on this issue. Email: efn@efn.be or Tel: +32 (0)2 512 74 19