



EFN POSITION PAPER ON "VALUE-BASED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM"

Until now, efficiency in healthcare has been interpreted mostly in terms of cost-reductions. More recently, healthcare policymakers have interpreted the notion of value according to the willingness of health systems or individual health providers to follow good practices. Increasingly, however, practitioners are promoting a more holistic, **patient-centred** understanding of value, in other words the "value-based healthcare". In a [recent study](#) of the Economist, "value-based healthcare" was analysed from a global perspective. The definition that this study uses is: "creation and operation of a health system that explicitly prioritises health outcomes that **matter to the patient**". This positions shared-decision making at the heart of healthcare delivery.

In a well-functioning health, social and home care system, the creation of value for patients should be the main objective of all actors involved. Since value depends on results, not inputs, value in health care is measured by the outcomes achieved, not the volume of services delivered. Therefore, shifting our focus from volume to value is the key challenge as the financing systems are mainly bound to production, volume. **The EFN believes it is important to design a health and social care ecosystem that optimises value-for-money and outcomes, shares accountability and liability and inevitable risks and rewards.** Nurses must play a key role in this paradigm shift.

One of the major challenges we face as a society is the rising cost of healthcare systems. At the same time, high quality of care is increasingly expected and looked at by patients; people expect high quality and safety when it comes to healthcare systems. Value-based health care is a promising concept, but in order to have impact at the health system level, it must be applied to the key decision-processes that make up care delivery. Several hospitals, and even health systems, have started including outcomes and longer-term cost impact in their procurement considerations. Although such examples exist, they are not widely disseminated and have not yet become a widespread practice. The EFN members are committed to support these practices.

Even though the European Commission and researchers usually have a very economic approach towards value-driven health systems, it is important that the measurement of "outcomes" are designed from a nursing perspective, while keeping in mind the intangible aspects of nursing care provision. The EFN calls for a stronger focus on health outcomes, and more robust health outcomes measurements (including patient experience and nursing sensitive data), to improve the quality of life of patients, strengthen public health interventions, and contribute to the wider economic goals and societal well-being. The health and social care ecosystems in the EU need more efficient spending, a cut of unnecessary bureaucracy and an orientation on outcomes, safeguarding quality and safety. This will lead to a value-based health and social care system in which data, statistics and technological developments support the work of nurses instead of being a burden on their workload.

The EFN, therefore, expresses its concerns that the industry is promoting and sponsoring studies which could compromise the design and deployment of value-based ecosystem, as they want to influence public procurements and, as such, boost their products, especially promoting diagnostic screening systems. To give deployment a real chance, founded on evidence-based research, and prevention having a key role in the ecosystem, it is important that we move away from a medical disease-approach (DRGs) and move towards a system based on needs, safety and quality, including quality of life.

The EFN therefore:

- Calls for a stronger focus on health outcomes, and more robust health outcomes measurement, including patient experience and nursing-sensitive data;
- Emphasises that focus should be to improve the quality of care for patients, should be personal centred, strengthen public health interventions and contribute to the wider economic goals and societal well-being;
- Reminds stakeholders and industry that nurses are to a large extent responsible for the collection of healthcare data;
- Promotes the design of electronic tools that support nurses in their daily work and facilitate the easy and fast collection of relevant data;
- Calls for more initiatives that link the field of nursing to value-based approaches which are less disease-oriented and more person-centred.

EFN Position Paper – March 2017

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)

Registration Number 476.356.013

Clos du Parnasse 11A, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 512 74 19 Fax: +32 2 512 35 50

Email: efn@efn.be Website: www.efnweb.eu