

"Strengthening Patient Safety: Establishing a European Committee for Specialist Nurses"

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Introduction. Ensuring patient safety is a fundamental pillar of quality healthcare across Europe. With the evolving landscape of healthcare delivery and the increasing complexity of treatment modalities, the need for a structured and multidisciplinary approach to patient safety has never been more pressing. Recognizing this urgency, we decided on the establishment of a dedicated Committee on Patient Safety, which will serve as a collaborative platform for specialist nurses, patient organizations, and other key stakeholders. This initiative aligns with the European Patient Safety Foundation's principles, emphasizing a patient-centered approach while maintaining the highest standards of healthcare quality.

The Rationale for a Patient Safety Committee

Placing the Patient at the Center of Care. Patient-centered care is a core principle of modern healthcare, ensuring that treatment strategies align with patient needs, values, and preferences. The committee will advocate for policies and practices that reinforce patient engagement and shared decision-making. Enhancing Quality of Care from a Specialist Nursing Perspective Specialist nurses play a critical role in ensuring safe and effective healthcare delivery. Their expertise in clinical care, patient education, and risk assessment makes them essential contributors to patient safety. The committee will highlight the role of specialist nurses in advancing safe healthcare practices. Alignment with European Value-Based Healthcare Principles, Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) focuses on achieving the best health outcomes relative to costs, ensuring efficiency, sustainability, and equity. The committee will support the integration of VBHC principles into patient safety strategies to optimize care delivery across Europe.

Objectives of the Committee

To develop a strategic framework for patient safety, integrating best practices, regulatory standards, and innovative approaches; To foster collaboration between nursing professionals, patient advocacy groups, policymakers, and healthcare institutions; To contribute to policy development at the European level, ensuring patient safety is embedded in all aspects of healthcare governance; To promote education and training on patient safety for healthcare professionals, emphasizing evidence-based practices and interdisciplinary teamwork and To enhance reporting and learning systems that identify risks, analyze adverse events, and implement preventive measures effectively.

Engagement with Key Stakeholders.

The success of the committee will depend on active collaboration with: Professional nursing organizations to incorporate frontline clinical insights into patient safety policies; Patient advocacy groups to ensure that patient voices drive healthcare improvements; Regulatory and governmental bodies to align safety measures with European healthcare policies; and Healthcare providers and academic institutions to promote research and innovation in patient safety.

Next Steps.

To establish the Committee on Patient Safety, we propose: Convening an initial working group comprising representatives from nursing associations, patient organizations, and healthcare experts; Defining the committee's structure, governance, and operational framework in consultation with key stakeholders and high level EU policy and political advocates; Developing a roadmap for short-term and long-term patient safety initiatives aligned with European healthcare policies; and Engaging with EU institutions and health organizations to gain support and endorsement for the committee's objectives.

Conclusion

The establishment of the Committee on Patient Safety in ESNO context, represents a pivotal step towards ensuring high-quality, patient-centered, and value-based healthcare across Europe. By fostering a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach, we aim to safeguard patient wellbeing, enhance healthcare delivery, and drive continuous improvements in patient safety standards. This initiative will serve as a cornerstone for sustainable, resilient, and high-quality European healthcare systems.

References: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d7087e5e-ac2b-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1>

About ESNO: The European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) is a non-profit organisation and the goal is to facilitate and provide an effective framework for communication and co-operation between the European Specialist Nurses Organisations and its constituent members. ESNO represents the mutual interests and benefits of these organisations to the wider European community in the interest of the public health. Members of ESNO consist of individual European specialist nurses organizations. Contact: www.esno.org – secretariat@esno.org