



AURE

Alliance of UK Health Regulators on Europe

## Press release

For immediate release

9 October 2007

### **EU Healthcare regulators set agenda for cooperation, transparency and best practice**

The Alliance of UK Health Regulators on Europe (AURE) has welcomed an agreement reached yesterday by the 'Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders' group of European healthcare professional regulators. The new agenda is a step towards developing a practical framework to ensure that the increased mobility of healthcare professionals is in the best interests of patients.

The agreement was reached on Monday at a meeting hosted by the Portuguese Order of Nurses in Lisbon, Portugal. It specifically covered: shared principles for the regulation of healthcare professionals; enhanced transparency of information about the registration status of health professionals; and an agreement on developing best practice for measurement of performance and competence of healthcare professionals.

The majority of European healthcare professionals are conscientious and safe practitioners. However, strengthening the basis for information sharing between authorities will help to protect patients from the small minority who pose a risk and seek to evade disciplinary action across the EU.

Welcoming the agreement, Hugh Simpson, Convenor, AURE said:

**“AURE is delighted that regulators and competent authorities have taken the lead in setting out clear principles for good regulation in Europe. By setting out practical steps to enhance transparency, regulators across Europe have also made clear a desire to support best practice and assure confidence in the regulatory system as mobility increases.”**

Professor Pereira Miguel, Coordinator, Health Task Force of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU said:

**“There are obvious links between the work of Crossing Borders and healthcare in Europe,**

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**specifically with the proposal for a directive on safe, high quality and efficient cross border healthcare soon to be presented by the European Commission. We are pleased this meeting took place in Portugal.”**

The draft agreement, supported by all those who attended the summit in Portugal, will be taken back to member states to be endorsed by the appropriate governance body of individual regulators. A final agreement is expected to be published by the end of 2007.

**Ends**

### **For further information please contact:**

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### **Notes to editors:**

1. AURE is a network of the 10 UK health and social care regulators and exists to respond to European Union developments relevant to health and social care regulation and patient and public safety in the UK. Member organisations are: the General Medical Council, General Dental Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, General Osteopathic Council, General Social Care Council, General Chiropractic Council, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, Health Professions Council, General Optical Council.
2. Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders began as a EU Presidency initiative during the UK Presidency of the EU, in 2005. It now exists as a Europe-wide informal partnership of professional healthcare regulators focusing on the development of collaborative and practical regulatory approaches. In October 2005 regulators from across Europe developed an informal agreement, known as the Edinburgh Agreement, setting out how they would collaborate on information exchange. This has since been implemented and regulators are now in the process of finalising the new Portugal Agreement covering a broad range of actions on regulatory themes, in the context of free movement of patients and professionals and the maintenance of patient safety in Europe.
3. Monday's event was attended by 70 delegates from 20 countries. The Portuguese Order of Nurses hosted the meeting, chaired by Mr Jos van den Heuvel, NIVEL (Netherlands Institute for

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Health Services Research). The Portuguese Presidency of the EU recognised the event: [click here to view Presidency website](#)

4. Copies of the draft agreement can be obtained on the AURE website: [www.aure.org.uk](http://www.aure.org.uk)

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General Medical Council, General Dental Council, Nursing & Midwifery Council, General Osteopathic Council, General Social Care Council, General Chiropractic Council, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, Health Professions Council, General Optical Council.