

**1 December 2008**

## **Response to the Department of Health consultation on the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**

The Alliance of UK Health Regulators on Europe brings together the 10 health and social care regulators in the United Kingdom to work collaboratively on European issues affecting patient and client safety. Our purpose is to protect and promote patient safety through effective regulation and ensuring proper standards in the practice of health and social care.

In response to the Department of Health in England's consultation on the draft Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross border healthcare, AURE has produced the following statement. This is in complement to individual responses from AURE members.

AURE calls for:

1. A requirement on all member states to make health professionals and health services subject to effective professional and system regulation.
2. Assurance that all healthcare in Europe is delivered in accordance with transparent high standards of quality and safety.
3. A legal duty on regulatory authorities in Europe to reactively and proactively exchange disciplinary information about the health professionals they register.
4. The 'Member State of Treatment' principle to apply to regulatory responsibility in all cases of cross border healthcare, including temporary service provision.
5. Transparent standards of practice and ethical codes to be developed at the national or regional level where they can best take account of the domestic health system, cultural considerations and safety of patients.

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