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Joint Meeting of Chief Medical, Chief Nursing and Chief Dental Officers
“Primary Health Care: An innovative Multidisciplinary Approach”
Organised under the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU
by the Ministry of Health Cyprus

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“Filoxenia” Conference Centre
Nicosia, Cyprus

Conclusions from the EU Chief Nursing Officers Meeting (CNOs)

At the Chief Nursing Officers Meeting during the Cyprus Presidency, themes such as national issues like the development of Nursing in Cyprus as well as the evolution of the Nursing and Midwifery laws of the Republic of Cyprus were presented. This was combined with topics that are currently being highlighted within the European Union along with Nursing issues from the World Health Organization Perspective.

Specifically, participants of the CNOs Meeting shared experiences related to Dynamics in Primary Health Care Competencies, Challenges and Perspectives for Nursing Education and Training and have come to the following conclusions:

- Nurses and Midwives are present at every single moment of people’s life, from prior to birth to death.
- Health Care trends during the last years have tended to move from hospital care to community care, from centralized care to decentralized care.
- Nurses and Midwives encounter new roles and responsibilities as members of the multidisciplinary and multisectoral health care team.

- They serve as individual and family advocates, as counsellors and as supporters.
- They are the key professionals for the liaison of the health care needs of the vulnerable and the whole health care system.
- Nurses and Midwives play a crucial role in Primary Health Care. In the future we can expect to see a reduction in institutional health care and an increase in home care. Nursing staff play an important role in achieving integral health care. A good paradigm from Cyprus is the Mental Health Community Nursing (MHCN). Since the establishment of the MHCN in Cyprus more than 700 patients were transferred from Mental Hospital to their Communities.
- The development of advanced nursing practice has become a global trend in the last few decades. Advanced practice nurses acquired the expert Knowledge base, complex decision making skills, clinical competencies for expanded practice such as family nursing, community nursing, paediatric nursing, mental health nursing according to the health needs of each country.
- Nurses and midwives have key and increasingly important roles to play in society's efforts to tackle the public health challenges of our time.
- There are significant progresses but there are still a huge diversity regarding nursing and midwifery between countries in the European Region.
- In primary care it appears that appropriately trained nurses can produce as high quality care and achieve as good health outcomes for patients as doctors.

Furthermore, participants of the Chief Nursing Officers Meeting during the Cyprus Presidency discussed issues related to Culturally Competent Care and have come to the following conclusions:

- The ability to provide culturally competent care is important for all health professionals. Lack of it and failure to provide culturally competent care can greatly increase the stresses experienced by patients and their families and may result in inadequate care.

- Use of transcultural nursing models in promoting health, based on cultural awareness, cultural knowledge, cultural sensitivity, aiming to succeed the provision of culturally competent care.
- In Europe and worldwide there paradigms, good practices and policies that nursing leaders may use and/or transform for their own country, taking in account their socio-cultural infrastructure.
- Nurses, can act as leaders and advocators in promoting health within the European community, proving a holistic and culturally appropriate nursing care.

Also, participants of the CNOs Meeting reviewed the perspective of patient's dignity in Nursing Education and caring for Dementia patients and have come to the following conclusions:

- Maintaining patient dignity is an important element of nursing care.
- Nursing students acknowledge the importance of preserving patient dignity but realise that usually it is compromised.
- Educators should focus on the issue of patient dignity so as to help nursing students to understand its importance.
- The care of patients with dementia and their families is a global health challenge.
- The evidence supports that caring for patients with dementia is correlated with burden, psychiatric morbidity, ill health and poor quality of life for primary caregivers.
- Nursing policy makers need to focus on family supportive strategies so as to enhance them to maintain the caring role.
- Population ageing will accelerate over the next two decades. Nurses are a crucial provider of Primary Health Care in ageing.

Additionally, participants of the CNOs Meeting examined the results of the questionnaire which was completed during the CNOs Meeting in Copenhagen and have come to the following conclusions:

- The CNOs should be notified about the issues which will be discussed prior to the meeting.
- The issues discussed during the previous meeting should be included in the agenda of the next meeting.
- The CNOs of all member states should communicate more frequently.
- CNOs should work together with the CMOs.
- The active participation of WHO in the CNOs Meeting is important.

Challenges for Nurses and Midwives have no ending...