



Update on the CHRE International Observatory on Health Professional Regulation – July 2010

1. We are pleased to report to interested followers of this initiative that preparatory work towards the Observatory becoming active in early 2011 is well under way. The main areas of activity have been the following:

- We have been building a database of regulatory bodies in a number of different countries. Our focus has been on the professions of doctor, nurse and pharmacist, but over time we intend to look at other professions too
- We are currently inviting regulatory bodies of those professions to become members of the Observatory. Having a broad membership will help the Observatory to achieve its objective of supporting policy development in health professional regulation. Members will be an invaluable source of information and will provide us with feedback on the quality and usefulness of the reports we produce.

2. Thus far, the following organisations are confirmed members:

German Medical Association
Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board
Arizona State Board of Pharmacy
Viennese Pharmacists Chamber
College of Nurses of Ontario
Medical Federation of Colombia
New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society
Pharmacy Board of Australia (AHPRA)
Council of Nurses and Midwives of Malta
General Medical Council (UK)
Health Professions Council of South Africa (Medical & Dental Boards)
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba
Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel
Austrian Chamber of Pharmacists
Alabama Board of Nursing
Medical Council of New Zealand
College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
Nursing Board (Ireland)
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Medical Order of the Province of Ancona (Italy)
Nursing and Midwifery Council (UK)
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
Order of Pharmacists of Morocco
College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia

Austrian Medical Chamber
Viennese Medical Chamber
Medical Board of Australia (AHPRA)
Pharmacy Association of the Dominican Republic
College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
Pharmacy Council of New Zealand
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (AHPRA)
Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
Ontario College of Pharmacists
Hellenic Regulatory Board for Nurses
College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association
Alberta College of Pharmacists
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies – Division of Registrations

3. We have been developing our methodological approach to health professional regulation research. Because of the variation in how health professionals are regulated internationally, and to secure cross-country consistency in our reports, we have developed an analytical framework based on what we take to be the five core functions of health professional regulation:

- (i) Quality assurance of pre-qualification education
- (ii) Licensure and registration
- (iii) Setting and enforcing standards of conduct
- (iv) Maintaining competence
- (v) Discipline

By focusing on these functions, we avoid making assumptions about the institutional organisation of regulation, the nature of the bodies involved, or the processes in place. The functions framework is sufficiently generic to allow us to capture the organisation of regulation and its processes regardless of country context, whilst at the same time allowing us to say what health professional regulation is in a way which holds across countries and professions.

4. We have been gathering information, through desk-based research, on how doctors, nurses and pharmacists are regulated in a number of different countries, and we have been starting preliminary work on a number of country reports.

5. We have been developing a questionnaire to send to members. The information provided in any returned questionnaires will feed into our country reports. We have recently sent members a preliminary draft of the questionnaire for comment/review. The final version of the questionnaire will draw on this draft document, and will reflect any feedback received.

6. The Observatory's aims are to produce descriptive country reports on how health professionals are regulated and analytical reports on issues of interest to regulators, and to respond to requests for information and to research commissions from regulators or from other interested bodies. Our hope, of course, is that what the Observatory does will have a positive impact on policy development in regulation and will contribute towards enhanced patient safety and the delivery of high quality health care.

Thank you again for your interest in this initiative. We will update you on progress again further into the project.

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