

Inventory and analysis of the professional status and the training characteristics of infection control staff in all European member states

Background

Profiles and training of Infection Control (IC) physicians and nurses in the European Union (EU) do not meet common standards. Some of the EU countries have a well defined professional status of the IC staff. However, capacities of the healthcare institutions to deal with prevention and control of HAI are very heterogeneous. One of the objectives of the IPSE Network is to propose a European core curriculum for Infection Control practitioners.

Methods

Within the framework of designing a consensual core curriculum, a survey amongst Infection Control authorities and institutions was carried out. This survey was organised at two levels:

- National: A specific questionnaire on Infection Control professional profiles and national training programmes was addressed to the IPSE National Contact Points.
- Institutional: A specific questionnaire on characteristics, missions and aspirations regarding Infection Control tasks was addressed to leading local organisations.

Data collection took place from July to November 2006. Questionnaires were centralised, controlled and analysed by the IPSE Training Office in Lyon

Results

31 countries replied to the national questionnaire. Regarding the definition of a professional profile for Infection Control practitioners, 18 countries (59%) define such a profile for doctors and 20 do so (66.7%) for nurses.

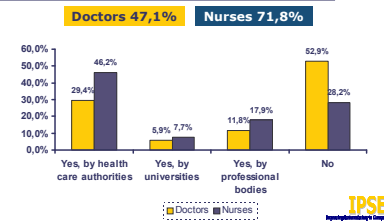
The consensual tasks (>60% of the countries) for doctors in terms of responsibility appeared to be; identification & investigation of outbreaks, analysis & feed back of Infection Control data, elaboration and management of the Infection Control programme, work plan & projects. The responsibilities of IC nurses were more concerned with training of hospital employees in Infection Control and elaboration of Infection Control procedures.

National training programs existed respectively in 55% of the counties for nurses and 33% for doctors.

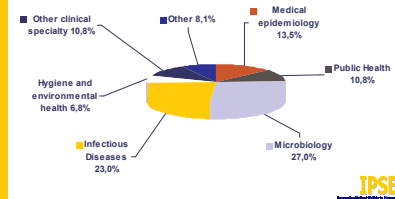
Conclusion

These data will be associated with the feedback from professional organisations in order to identify consensual elements that will form the base of the European core curriculum for Infection Control practitioners.

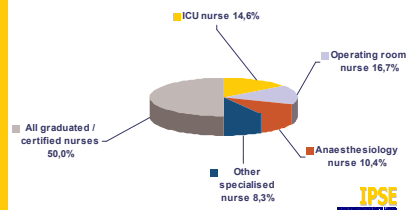
Official recognition in your country of the specialty of "Infection Control"



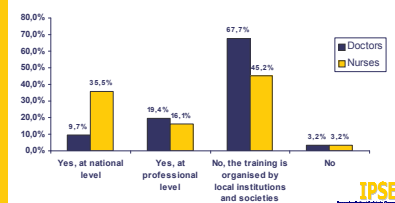
IC doctors backgrounds



IC nurses backgrounds



National Curriculum or programme for training Infection Control Practitioners



Degree or training leading to IC qualification

