

WP1 European training for infection control doctors & nurses in connection with ESCMID

Training of infection control physicians and nurses in the EU does not meet common standards. The professional status of infection control staff is well defined in some countries (e.g. by law, with specific governmental funding) but remains unclear in others. These differences result in very heterogeneous capacities of the healthcare institutions to deal with prevention and control of healthcare associated infection.

This work package will document existing differences between European countries with regard to the professional status of infection control staff and define a common core curriculum for the training of infection control staff in Europe.

Description of Work

Inventory and analysis of existing courses in infection control in all European member states:

- inventory of training procedures for IC nurses and physicians in the EU member states.
- analysis of course content, duration and organisation.

Analysis of the professional status of infection control staff in all European member states:

- inventory of national/regional regulations (laws, guidelines, etc.) with regard to IC staff in hospitals and nursing homes (task description, minimal quota, governmental or other funding, accreditation, etc).

Definition of a core curriculum for IC training in Europe:

- the exchange of experiences in IC training will allow the definition of a minimal common core curriculum for IC training with minimal content requirements for microbiology, epidemiology, nursing care, etc..
- the following questions will be addressed:
 - What core knowledge and competence should be acquired in the training curriculum of IC physicians and nurses?
 - How far are those goals met by the UEMS core training programmes (MDs only) for medical microbiology or infectious diseases?
 - Which type of modification could be envisaged? In particular, should there be a specific training programme in IC practice?

Tasks of the National Representatives

- Enlist other national experts in the field of training procedures for IC nurses and physicians necessary to ensure input to this work package is nationally accurate and representative.
- Assist in the collection of information necessary for inventorising national/regional regulations with regard to IC staff in hospitals and nursing homes.
- Assist in the collection of information necessary for inventorising training procedures for IC nurses and physicians, including information on course content, duration and organisation.
- Review and approve the national inventory of training procedures.
- Review and approve the proposed minimal common core curriculum for IC training, including any modifications necessary to existing IC training courses to meet the core curriculum.

Completion Criteria

- Information on infection control courses and professional status has been collected from the countries concerned.
- The type of modifications necessary to existing infection control training courses has been established.

Acceptance Criteria

- The core curriculum for European training is supported by the countries concerned.

Risk Monitoring

- National Representatives will validate the proposed core curriculum for European training.
- A pedagogic committee will be responsible for the preparatory work and review of the work of the Research Assistant.