
Conference

Regulating health professions in a European perspective

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Abstract

Trends in the medical health workforce in Europe

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The demand and supply of health workers have increased over time in all EU countries, with jobs in the health and social sector accounting for more than 10% of total employment now in many EU countries and about 13% in Belgium. This presentation will review key trends and policy priorities on health workforce across EU countries, with a particular focus on doctors and nurses given the preeminent role that they have traditionally played in health systems. It will outline some of the stated policy priorities of EU countries to address current and future health workforce challenges, including increasing entry into medical and nursing schools to increase the supply of new doctors and nurses, providing financial and other incentives to promote a better geographic distribution of health professionals, achieving better skills mix within and across health professions, extending the scope of practice of nurses and other health professionals, and using immigration to increase the supply where needed.