

26 June 2014

VIA EMAIL

The Polish Nurses Association
The Polish Main and Regional Nurses and Midwives Chambers
The Polish Parliament

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Polish Nurses Association for its steadfast lobbying on the recognition of nurse prescribers in Poland. Through this work, nurse prescribing has gained national attention, and I would strongly urge the Polish parliament to officially recognise this competency when it meets to debate the issue in July.

The RCN has been a firm supporter of the Polish Nurses Association's efforts on nurse prescribing for many years. Nurse prescribing in the UK has grown significantly over the last two decades, with district nurses and health visitors first getting access to a list of approved medicines in 1998. Research undertaken in the UK has shown that empowering nurses to issue medications has improved health outcomes for patients, bolstered service delivery in the UK health system (the NHS) and has improved job satisfaction for nurses. These findings support a key RCN belief that nurses can, and are driving forward innovations that are helping the NHS to save money without compromising patient care.

In terms of improved health outcomes for patients, a study conducted in 2011 found that nurse prescribing has helped to improve patient access to care in the UK. In addition, nurse prescribing has also helped to limit unnecessary hospital admissions while improving access to treatment, particularly for patients with long-term conditions such as diabetes.

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*The RCN represents nurses and
nursing, promotes excellence in
practice and shapes health policies*

In terms of system efficiency, nurse prescribing has been linked to improved patient waiting times in the UK. This is because nurse prescribers are able to allow doctors to focus on more complex health needs, thereby enabling care services to be delivered more smoothly. As a result of these benefits, patients in the UK have reported high levels of satisfaction and confidence in nurse prescribing.

Finally, there is also evidence that recognition of nurse prescribing improves nurses' autonomy, job satisfaction and independence. This is particularly important for nurses who work in the community or in low resource settings where doctors' surgeries are often located some distance away.

More information on the positive impacts of nurse prescribing in the UK can be found in our international factsheet at:

[http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/443627/Nurse Prescribing in the UK - RCN Factsheet.pdf](http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/443627/Nurse_Prescribing_in_the_UK_-_RCN_Factsheet.pdf).

In solidarity with our partners in the Europe, especially the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), I would like to add the RCN's support for the Polish Nurses Association's advocacy on nurse prescribing, and to advise that the national parliament formally recognise this role. Doing so, I believe, will help bolster good patient care and enhance Poland's reputation as a European leader in nursing innovation and best practice.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Carter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Peter Carter OBE
Chief Executive and General Secretary