

Many thanks for the invitation to the consultation meeting on Monday. The comments I made on behalf of ICN in summary were;

- ICN welcomes and supports the Roadmap for access and improving access to vaccines and medicines and this is also a key ICN priority given the central role that nurses play in medications administration, monitoring, surveillance, compliance and increasingly prescribing.
- In section 5 the surveillance, compliance and monitoring role that nurses and other health care professionals play could also be specifically recognised.
- It is because of the roles and responsibilities that healthcare professionals have right across the continuum of medicines management that we advocate for active engagement of health care professionals in governance arrangements. We propose that a reference to the involvement of clinical leaders in good governance in order to help bridge the policy/practice divide and this could be referenced in section 8
- We welcome and support section 10 with its focus specifically on the health workforce. The scale of the projected health workforce shortage has recently been identified by the UN high level commission on health employment and economic growth as 18m by 2030 half of which are Nurses. We would like to see the scale of the shortage referenced in the document and the fact that this extends to health care professionals beyond Pharmacists.
- Section 10 also refers to interventions such as training that can increase capacity and access to medicines. Supporting healthcare professionals such as nurses to extend their scope of practice and removing barriers to nurse prescribing would assist greatly. Where new cadres are trained to support medicines management and administration the vital role that health professionals play in terms of providing support and supervision should be acknowledged as this is critical to ensuring safety.

I hope that's helpful and any further queries do just let me know.

Best wishes,

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