



International Nurses Day celebrates cost effectiveness of nurses

Geneva, Switzerland, 11 May 2015 – The International Council of Nurses has chosen the theme *Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective* as the theme for International Nurses Day tomorrow, 12 May 2015.

The theme reinforces the fact that global health cannot be achieved without nurses' participation at all levels of the healthcare system.

“Nurses and policy makers must focus on the nursing role as a key priority and determinant for achieving equity, delivering universal health coverage and ultimately improving health outcomes globally,” stated David Benton, ICN Chief Executive Officer. “Nurses are well positioned to drive improvements in efficiency and effectiveness”.

As the single largest group of health professionals, and those closest to people in all settings, nurses can have an enormous impact on reducing health costs and increasing quality of care. Nurses understand the landscape of healthcare delivery including financing, cost effectiveness and resource management, and access to care. The decisions that every practicing nurse makes multiple times each day can make a significant difference in the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire system.

Drawing upon examples from around the world, the ICN's toolkit for International Nurses Day examines the current issues around health system financing and the value of nursing. It provides guidance for nurses and policy makers on how to best achieve equitable access to effective and affordable healthcare services. The tools, information and ideas for action contained in the kit will assist and encourage nurses and national nurses associations (NNAs) to become engaged in and knowledgeable about health system financing as a means to achieving quality of care and patient safety in a cost effective way. Examples from around the world demonstrate what is possible when nurses bring their creativity and professional perspective to the transformation agenda.

ICN offers the IND kit to national nurses associations, health ministries and health institutions worldwide. Materials in the kit, including the poster image, can be downloaded from www.icn.ch/publications/2015-nurses-a-force-for-change-care-effective-cost-effective/2015.

Celebrated around the world on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, International Nurses Day is an excellent occasion for nurses and their associations to inform and remind the public and policy makers about the role they play in promoting the health of communities and nations.

Note for Editors

The **International Council of Nurses** (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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