

Migration News in Brief

UK's Nursing and Midwifery Council Announces Halt to Overseas Applications

The UK's Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the agency which is responsible for registering nurses and midwives, imposed a freeze on new overseas applications for registration during February and March 2013. The ban on new applications remained in place while the agency reviewed its overseas registration and policy procedures to ensure that policies were being applied "firmly, fairly, legally and consistently". According to the Nursing Times, almost 1,000 overseas nurses had their applications put on hold while the review was carried out. The agency has warned that new applicants may experience delays in having their applications processed

The freeze was implemented after concerns were raised by the Professional Standards Authority. The Nursing Times reported in April that an NMC spokeswoman confirmed no overseas nurses had yet been found to be fraudulently registered, adding that checks were ongoing. It also reported that the review found

requirements were not always being enforced around the need for nurses from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US to complete additional training hours to make their education comparable with the UK.

A review of the policy itself is now underway, and will consider proposals such as requiring applicants to attend in person with their identity documents, and the administration of written, oral or practical tests for some or all applicants. The NMC aims to complete the review and implement its findings by April 2014.

Sources: "NMC resumes overseas registration": NMC, <http://www.nmc-uk.org/media/Latest-news/NMC-resumes-overseas-registration/>

"NMC ends freeze on overseas nursing applications" Nursing Times <http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-zones/management/nmc-ends-freeze-on-overseas-nurse-applications/5057084.article?blocktitle=News&contentID=4385>

New Agreement for Filipino Nurses in Germany

In March 2013 the German Minister for Labour and Social Affairs and the Philippine Labour Secretary signed an agreement to facilitate hiring of Filipino health care professionals in Germany.

The first contingent of nurses is intended for deployment to Germany within a year. Agencies from both countries will work together to select nurses, who will complete a basic German language course and attend seminars on German culture and professional practice in Manila. Nurses would then be matched to potential employers in Germany.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has said the agreement between the Philippines and Germany would ensure that Filipino nurses would enjoy the same benefits and privileges as their German counterparts.

Sources: "Germany preparing to hire PH nurses" 26 March 2013, Lee-Pisco L, *journal.online* <http://www.journal.com.ph/index.php/news/national/47385-germany-preparing-to-hire-ph-nurses>

"Germany to hire 500 Pinoy nurses, medical workers" Joymalin M & Lee-Brago 20 March 2013P *philstar.com Headlines* <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/03/20/921817/germany-hire-500-pinoy-nurses-medical-workers>

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Barriers Remain for Migrant Health Workers in Japan

A recent report by the Asia News network highlights the difficulties experienced by overseas trained health workers in Japan.

Responding to workforce shortages, Japan has allowed the entry of health workers from the Philippines and Indonesia. Care workers from Vietnam will join them in 2013. However, the numbers are falling. The report, quoting figures from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), says that the number of Indonesians who have come to Japan to work as care workers or nurses was 101 in 2012, compared to 362 in 2009. Similarly, the number from the Philippines had dropped from 283 in 2009 to 101 in 2013.

Cultural and language barriers are significant. In order to work, applicants must pass a stringent Japanese language exam within

3 to 4 years. No foreign applicants passed the exam in 2009, and only 3 out of 254 passed in 2010. The exam has since been simplified, but the pass rate remains low, at 11.3% of foreign applicants in 2012. This represents roughly one thousandth of the total applicants who passed.

An MHLW official quoted in the report said there is currently no Government consensus to take in more foreign nurses, and that Japanese nurses who have quit could be encouraged to return to work instead. The official also said that nursing was an important source of employment for young Japanese.

Source: "Barriers deter Asian nurses from Japan" (2012) Li HA, *The Straits Times Asia News Network* <http://www.asianewsnet.net/news-37635.html>

Gulf Cooperation Council Cracks Down on Forgeries

ANY nurse found with forged employment or training certificates to practise will be banned from the profession in Qatar and other countries across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, a representative from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has said, according to the *Qatar Tribune*.

HMC's Deputy Chief of Continuing Care and SCH Nursing Affairs, Dr Nabila al Meer, said that procedures have been introduced in Qatar and the GCC region to verify the authenticity of health professionals' certificates in their countries of residence.

Under the regime, any identified forgeries are immediately referred to the Supreme Council of Health (SCH), who advises other GCC authorities. The SCH is the only regulatory body in Qatar that registers and issues licenses to the health practitioners in both public and private health sectors. HMC had so far been advised of at least 5 overseas hospitals which have been blacklisted after forgeries were identified, which include anomalies such as fake university certificates and licenses.

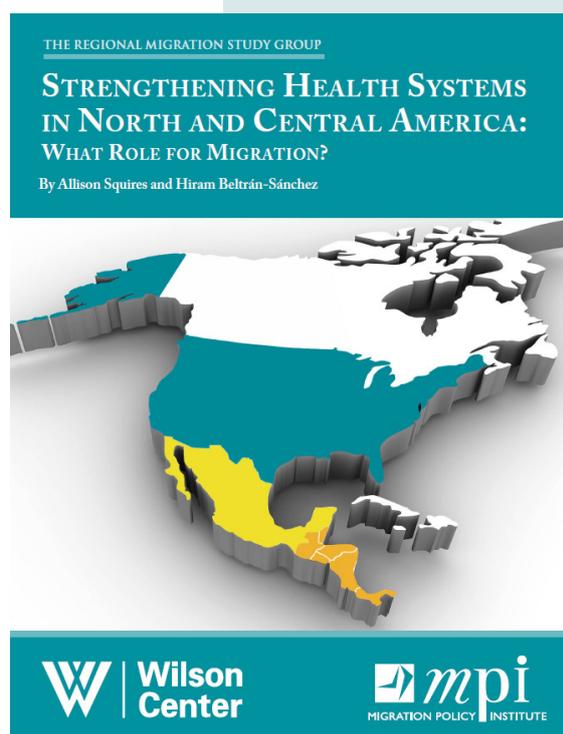
Source: "Nurses with fake certificates will be banned across the GCC" *Agonia*, A 10 April 2010 *Qatar Tribune* http://www.qatar-tribune.com/data/20130301/content.asp?section=nation2_1

New Report on Nurse Migration in North and Central America

A new report, *Strengthening health systems in North and Central America: What role for migration?* has been published by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI). The report seeks to draw attention to the cross-border migration in the Americas and suggests ways the migration could be managed to meet the demand for health care services in the region.

The report, co-authored by New York University College of Nursing's (NYUCN) Allison Squires, PhD, and Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez of Harvard University, focuses on nursing personnel in a comparative case study, which looked at health care services and human resources in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States.

Link: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/RMSG-HealthCare.pdf>



Migration News in Brief

CGFNS International partners with the National Nursing Assessment Service for Canada

The National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS) in Canada has selected CGFNS International as its vendor partner to conduct the evaluation services for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) applying for registration/licensure to practice in Canada. As a result of the partnership, CGFNS is now the world's largest credentials evaluation organization for nursing.

Currently, there are 25 unique organizations in Canada that are responsible for the regulation of three distinct nursing groups: registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses (called registered practical nurses in Ontario). The NNAS Project will harmonize and centralize the credentials evaluation process for internationally-educated nurses who wish to practice in Canada. Similar initiatives have been introduced for the credentials evaluation of other internationally-educated healthcare professionals in Canada. Canada has reported that IEN application volumes range between 10,000 and 12,000 annually.

"CGFNS International is uniquely positioned to perform credentials evaluation services for internationally-educated nurses who wish to practice in North America based on over 35 years of experience in performing credentials evaluation for IENs desiring to practice in the United States," said Dr. Franklin A. Shaffer, EdD, RN, FAAN, CEO, CGFNS International. "We look forward to serving the Canadian healthcare consumer by ensuring the integrity of the credentials of health care professionals in the context of global migration."

CGFNS International will be co-presenting a symposium with Mary-Anne Robinson, Chief Executive Officer at College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, on the "Innovative Collaboration in Canadian Nursing Regulation: Creating A National Nursing Assessment Service" during the ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress from 10-11:30 on May 20 in Melbourne, Australia.

Useful Links and Resources

Alliance for Ethical International Recruitment Practices
www.fairinternationalrecruitment.org

CGFNS International
www.cgfns.org

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
www.healthobservatory.eu

Global Health Workforce Alliance
www.who.int/workforcealliance/en

International Centre for Human Resources in Nursing
www.ichrn.org

International Council of Nurses
www.icn.ch

International Labour Organization – International Labour Migration
www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant

International Organization for Migration
www.iom.int

Internationally Educated Nurses: An Employers Guide (Canada)
ien.oha.com

Migration for Development
www.migration4development.org/

Migration Policy Institute
www.migrationpolicy.org

Mobility of Health Professionals (MohProf) Project
www.mohprof.eu

OECD: International Migration Policies
www.oecd.org/migration

The World Bank: Health Systems: Human Resources Web page
go.worldbank.org/WBF7LWUHA0

World Health Organization – Health Workforce
www.who.int/hrh/en/

Events

International Conference on Gender and Migration: Critical Issues and Policy Implications
 11-13 May, 2013 | Istanbul, Turkey
<http://www.socialstudies.org.uk/conferences/icgm2013>

ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress: Equity and Access to Health Care
 Melbourne, Australia | 18-23 May 2013
<http://www.icn2013.ch/en>

Future Healthcare: The 38th World Hospital Congress
 June 18-20, 2013 | Oslo, Norway
<http://www.oslo2013.no/index.php/program>

PHOCUS 2013: Crossing borders in Migration and Health: A public health dialogue
 25 October, 2013 | Paris, France
<http://www.phocus-conference.com/>

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Research and Publications Update

Strengthening health systems in North and Central America: What role for migration? (2013) Squires A & Beltrán-Sánchez, Migration Policy Institute (MPI), Washington. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/RMSG-HealthCare.pdf>

Migration and mobility of skilled health workers from selected Pacific Island countries (2013) Doyle J and Roberts G University of New South Wales Human Resource for Health Knowledge Hub, Sydney. [http://www.hrhhub.unsw.edu.au/HRHweb.nsf/resources/45_SHWs_PICs.pdf/\\$file/45_SHWs_PICs.pdf](http://www.hrhhub.unsw.edu.au/HRHweb.nsf/resources/45_SHWs_PICs.pdf/$file/45_SHWs_PICs.pdf)

“Nurse migration in Europe – Can expectation really be met? Combining qualitative and quantitative data from Germany and eight of its destination and source countries” (2013) Zander B, Blümel M & Busse R International Journal of Nursing Studies. [http://www.journalofnursingstudies.com/article/S0020-7489\(12\)00419-1/abstract](http://www.journalofnursingstudies.com/article/S0020-7489(12)00419-1/abstract)

“Searching for collaboration in international nursing partnerships: a literature review” (2013) George EK, Meadows-Oliver M International Nursing Review. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1466-7657.2012.01034.x/abstract?deniedAccessCustomisedMessage=&userIsAuthenticated=false>

“Through the back door: nurse migration to the UK from Malawi and Nepal, a policy critique” (2013) Adhikari R & Grigulis A, Health Policy and Planning. <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/03/21/heapol.czt010.short?rss=1>

Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas (2012) OECD and the Research Department

of the Agence Francaise de Développement. <http://www.oecd.org/migration/diasporas.htm>

Harnessing the skills of migrants and diasporas to foster development (2012) OEACD and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/Policy_Brief_Migrants_En_BD_DEFINITIF.pdf

Labour, Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2013) Arrow for change, Asian-pacific resources & research centre for women. <http://www.arrow.org.my/publications/AFC/v19n1.pdf>



Contribute to the ICNM eSources Library online

ICNM is actively seeking submissions of original migration-related materials for inclusion in the eSources library. Types of materials appropriate for submission include journal articles, research reports, conference papers, presentations, dissertations and theses.

eSources does not accept lesson plans, blogs or web pages.

Before submitting your material, please prepare the following items:

- File containing your submission. The file must be in the format of .pdf, .txt, .doc, .ppt or .rtf.
- The first page of your document must include the title, authors' names and publication date. ICNM cannot accept materials without identifying information.
- Narrative or structured abstract summarizing your submission.

Once you have completed your submission, an eSources subject matter expert will review your material in accordance with the screening criteria for submission material. Write to: esources@intlursemigration.org

From the editor

ICNM eNews is an initiative of the International Centre on Nurse Migration – a collaborative project launched by the International Council of Nurses and the CGFNS International. Established in 2005, ICNM works to address gaps in policy, research and information with regard to the migrant nurse workforce and serves as an international resource for the development, promotion and dissemination of documentation on nurse migration. Current and back issues are available online at: www.intlnursemigration.org/sections/research/icnmenews.shtml

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