

Physician Information Exchange (PIE) Working Group: Terms of Reference

Background and context

1. One of IAMRA's highest priorities is the efficient and effective exchange of information between medical regulatory authorities about the physicians that they register, in the interests of the public.
2. The Physician Information Exchange (PIE) Working Group was formally established by the Management Committee on January 31, 2007 to continue and expand upon the efforts of the former working groups on International Exchange of Information on Physicians (IEIP) and the Fast Track Credentials System (FTCS).
3. Steady progress has been made in recent years in developing mechanisms for exchanging positive information about physicians (that is to say, information on physicians who are considered to be in good standing in the jurisdiction(s) where they are licensed/registered) to facilitate professional mobility and simplify administrative co-operation between regulators. This has been based on a series of bilateral memoranda of understanding that describe processes for the electronic exchange of Certificates of Good Standing (CGS) between participating jurisdictions and an IAMRA agreed template for the categories that CGSs should include.
4. The proactive exchange of negative information on physicians (that is to say, information about physicians who have been subject to disciplinary or fitness to practice sanctions) is a more challenging issue. IAMRA's members have identified this as a priority area for development.
5. Progress was made in 2012 with the development and adoption of an *IAMRA Statement of Intent on Proactive Information Sharing*. Additional progress has been made more recently with the development of guidance on good practice in setting up and managing public registers; the development of a webpage that provides links to the public registers of medical regulatory authorities; the development of an information resource on members' current practices for issuing CGSs; and, the development of an information resource on criminal conviction information IAMRA members collect at the point of registration and beyond.

The Management Committee remains committed to exploring ways to increase international exchange of information on physicians.

Objective

6. The PIE Working Group is charged as follows:

To enhance patient safety and public confidence in medical regulation, and facilitate international professional mobility, through the timely exchange of relevant, accurate and reliable information on physicians between medical regulatory authorities.

Remit/Tasks

Proactive information exchange

7. To develop mechanisms by which information about disciplinary actions taken by national, regional, provincial and state health care regulatory authorities against health care providers under their jurisdictions can be disseminated in a proactive and a targeted way to relevant medical regulatory authorities.
8. In pursuing these mechanisms, the PIE Working Group will establish the recommended data set necessary to alert other regulators to a potential risk in their jurisdictions, including:
 - a. The circumstances in which information should be proactively exchanged between regulators
 - b. What information should be exchanged
 - c. With whom information should be exchanged
 - d. When information should be exchanged
9. The Group will consider the most suitable mechanisms for delivering effective information exchange, with particular reference to:
 - a. The promotion of the *IAMRA Statement of Intent on proactive information sharing*
 - b. The establishment of an IAMRA web page which will direct regulators to the databases of other medical regulatory authorities
 - c. The promotion of bi-lateral and multi-lateral memoranda of understanding, based on the models of information sharing previously developed for the electronic exchange of certificates of good standing/certificates of current professional status
 - d. The promotion of best practices on the exchange of certificates of good standing / certificates of current professional status and the gathering of information about criminal convictions
 - e. The development of criteria for IAMRA to provide a service to members that would allow them to: proactively share information on doctors attempting to register with fraudulent documents; and send alerts on doctors with fitness to practice/disciplinary actions that pose an immediate threat to the public
 - f. The promotion of guidance on good practice in setting up and managing public registers

- g. The promotion of an information resource on members' current practices for issuing Certificates of Good Standing/Certificates of Current Professional Status
 - h. The promotion of an information resource on criminal conviction information IAMRA members collect at the point of registration and beyond.
10. In considering the mechanisms referred to in 8 above, the Group will have regard to:
- a. The principles of good regulation: proportionality, accountability, consistency, transparency and targeting
 - b. The regulatory impact (including the measures to be implemented and resources required) for individual jurisdictions, and for IAMRA, in maintaining the system efficiently
 - c. The practicality, viability and added value of the different options
 - d. The data protection and privacy legislation in force in the different jurisdictions of IAMRA countries

Removing barriers to information exchange

11. To identify potential strategies for removing barriers to sharing physician licensure/registration information between jurisdictions.

Communication

12. To coordinate the promotion and expansion of information exchange by providing updated information for the IAMRA website.

Outputs

13. Provision of regular reports to the Management Committee on the results of the work of the group.
14. Promotion of the work of the group on information exchange through *IAMRA eNews* and the IAMRA website.
15. Monitoring the implementation of the group's recommendations by IAMRA members and sharing of best practise in information sharing.

Accountability

16. The work of the PIE group will be overseen by the IAMRA Management Committee.