



## EFN Policy Statement on EU Experts Recommendations on “Defining Value in Value–Based Healthcare”

The European Commission’s [Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health](#) (EXPH) has published an *“Opinion on Defining Value in ‘Value–Based Healthcare’”* in which they state how the concept of “Value–Based Healthcare (VBHC)” is increasingly used in public discourse, although they consider that it is done in a distorted manner. For the EXPH, VBHC encompasses four aspects of value: 1/ personal value (the individual received appropriate care), 2/ technical value (the optimal distribution among patient populations), 3/ allocative value (the best outcomes with available resources) and 4/ societal value (the intrinsic value of good health as enabler to participate in society and solidarity as a contributor to social cohesion of equal individuals). All of these four value aspects link to EU values as set out in the EU treaties and on which EU countries healthcare systems should be built on: solidarity and commitment to universal health coverage – as laid down in the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#).

This comprehensive concept of value merges the traditional economic connotation of the term together with the European societal values. Using this definition as the point of departure, the EXPH argues for a set of 6 strategic long–term recommendations to facilitate a culture that enables freeing–up resources for reinvestment in high–value care and for effective reallocation towards VBHC:

1. To ensure societal value by creating awareness of health as an essential investment for European society;
2. To ensure all four pillars of values develop a long–term strategy;
3. To ensure all four pillars of values support research and development on/of methodologies on appropriateness and unwarranted variation;
4. To ensure that allocative and societal value support the creating of learning communities that bring together the best expertise, experiences and practices;
5. To ensure that allocative and societal value encourage healthcare professionals to take responsibility and feel accountable for increasing value in healthcare; and,
6. To ensure that personal value support patient’s initiatives for engagement in shared decision–making.

**While the EFN endorses all these recommendations, it also stresses the importance of translating these recommendations into concrete action, guided by the European Commission.**

The EFN has already published policy statements on [value-based health](#), the need for [investing in health](#), and [patient empowerment](#) which the European Commission should take into account for developing EU policy tools to make EU policies fit-for-purpose. When creating new EU legislation for the implementation of value-based reforms across the European healthcare systems, the **EXPH recommendations** should be strengthened by the following three EFN recommendations:

1. Giving a greater focus to measuring the health “outcome” for patients, including through nursing indicators. A robust health outcome measurement system should be put in place at the EU level, including patient’s experience and nursing-sensitive data. “Value” is a concept that goes beyond cost-control and as such the focus should be given to improving the quality and safety of care.
2. Strengthening citizens/patient-centredness in healthcare, including prevention activities. Healthcare should move from being disease-oriented towards person-centred. Citizens/patient empowerment should be embedded within value-based healthcare approaches and tools with health-literacy being fostered. As such, value-based healthcare tools, including digital health and management tools, such as Electronic Health Records, should improve the accessibility of healthcare by strengthening integrated and continuity of care.
3. Increasing investment in the academic education of the nursing workforce, enhancing the role of CPD and supporting bridging courses. Moreover, EU value-based healthcare systems need to fully comply with the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification Directive 2013/55/EU and the Proportionality Directive 2018/958.

The EFN urges the new European Commission (2019–2024) to continue its efforts to engage stakeholders in the dialogue with governments to facilitate the co-design and implementation of value-based healthcare systems in the EU with specific attention to the end-user requirements.

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