

## STEWARDSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

*Stewardship and governance of nursing and midwifery services involve the government, civil society and the professions to ensure the quality of care.*

**THE WORLD HEALTH REPORT 2000** states: “Stewardship is concerned with ensuring that government, organizations and individuals that compose the health system act as good stewards of the resources and trust given to their care” (WHO, 2000). To recognize the importance of stewardship is to ensure quality of care and the safety of the public, especially patients. To do so, however, requires meaningful regulatory mechanisms – especially in relation to the continued globalization of health care and the consequent migration of practitioners.

Awareness and expectations of the general public regarding health service provision are also increasing at a time when many countries face staffing shortages, rising health care costs and limitations on financial resources (Cassels, 1995).

Both individually and collectively, health care practitioners have a major role to play in regulating the profession and setting standards for care. As responsible and accountable stakeholders in the delivery of effective client care, health personnel – and especially nurses and midwives – must acknowledge the forces that drive health care and must become more involved in policy-making.

## OBJECTIVES ► EXPECTED RESULTS

**5.1 To support governments in the development of sound health systems stewardship and governance, with a particular focus on nursing and midwifery services.**

- 5.1.1 Tools made available on different approaches for nursing and midwifery regulations and legislation (for example, in the areas of nurse prescribing and evolving roles).
- 5.1.2 Evidence-based, cost-effective options identified for establishing or strengthening regulatory structures to support implementation of mechanisms such as registration, licensing and certification of health care practitioners.
- 5.1.3 Tools and mechanisms developed to ensure that legislative reforms are informed by and reflect the contribution and scope of nursing and midwifery services.
- 5.1.4 Tools and databases developed to assess the magnitude of organizational and individual provider errors and their implications for health care.
- 5.1.5 Approaches and mechanisms established for the prevention of organizational and individual provider errors.
- 5.1.6 Professional input facilitated in international trade agreements that have an impact on the legislation and regulation of health care practitioners.

**5.2 To empower nursing and midwifery professions and their regulatory bodies to assume responsibility for self-regulation and quality of care.**

- 5.2.1 Models and tools identified for educating nurses and midwives in the development of health policies, legislation and regulations.
- 5.2.2 Models and tools identified for enhancing the involvement of nurses and midwives in the development of legislation and regulations.
- 5.2.3 Guidelines developed or strengthened for accrediting nursing and midwifery education programmes, and their implementation facilitated.
- 5.2.4 Guidelines developed or strengthened for accrediting nurses and midwives, and their implementation facilitated.
- 5.2.5 Cost-effective models developed for improving the quality of nursing and midwifery practice.
- 5.2.6 Models developed for “whistle-blowing” legislation to protect health care practitioners who denounce malpractice.