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INVESTING IN NURSING EDUCATION SAVES PATIENTS' LIVES

The RN4Cast European study, the largest investigation of nursing and hospital outcomes in Europe to date, was carried out by a number of universities in Europe and the US, and is [published in The Lancet](#) medical journal today.

An analysis of more than 400,000 patient records found that hospitals where there were fewer patients per nurse had lower death rates. It found that every extra patient added to a nurse's workload increases a patient's chance of dying within 30 days of being admitted for surgery by seven per cent.

Prof. Anne Marie Rafferty, King's College, London said, *'Although the European Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications safeguards the profession of nursing from those wanting to lower the level of nursing education, our evidence demonstrates that governments need to upgrade nursing education in the EU to degree level'*.

Prof. Linda Aiken, University of Pennsylvania said, *'Our findings emphasise the risk to patients that could emerge in response to nurse staffing cuts under recent austerity measures, and suggest that an increased emphasis on bachelor's education for nurses could reduce hospital deaths'*.

Prof. Walter Sermeus, Catholic University of Leuven said, *'The findings suggest that patients have the highest risk of death after surgery in hospitals where nurses with lower levels of education care for more patients'*.

The EFN congratulates the RN4Cast Consortium for this high level research on which the EU and Europe can build further evidence-based policies.

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