

Dr Jean François CERFON

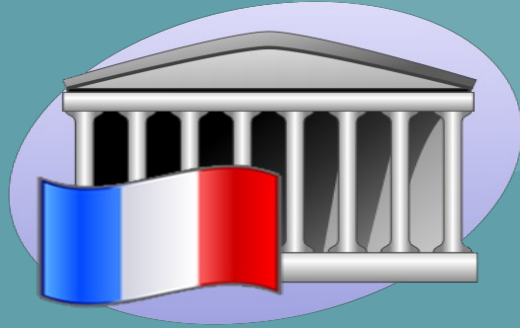
hospital Anesthetist / Intensivist

President of the Medical Council
of the Upper Rhine COLMAR 68000 Alsace France



ORDRE NATIONAL
DES MÉDECINS
CONSEIL
DÉPARTEMENTAL
DU HAUT-RHIN

French government
management facing caregivers
shortage



AEMH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

BRUSSELS

May 12 13 2023





French health organisation in crisis

Currently 6 about 7
million French people
have no longer access
to a general
practitioner

In order to address the needs
of the more than
630 000 French patients with
long-term illness who do not
have access to an attending
physician, and to support the
worrying situation of public
hospitals

....the French government took a series of emergency legislative measures attempting to deal with this serious health crisis

1 / Extending the scope of practice for paramedical professionals

2/ Limiting interim work by health professionals, by capping the maximum amount that can be earned via interim in public hospitals

3 / Extending the derogation for certification process for physicians trained outside of the EU

4/ lifting of the vaccination obligation for non-vaccinated caregivers

1 / Extending the scope of practice for paramedical professionals

- This advanced health care practice for paramedicals already exists in some other countries;
- **Advanced practice has a twofold objective:**
 - 🕒 to improve access to care but also
 - 🕒 to improve the quality of patient care by reducing the doctor's workload .
 - 🕒 In France the IPA grade (bac + 5) was authorized by the Touraine law in 2016 and has been implemented since 2018.





Four areas of intervention have been defined in the first instance for IPA skills:

- chronic diseases in primary care.
- Oncology and haemato-oncology
- Chronic renal failure, dialysis
- And last Emergency units

Thus with the patient agreement these nurses will be allowed to manage patients referred by the doctor from hospitals and the healthcare team

- **In the summer of 2022, only 1,700 IPAs were in operation**

The bill to improve access to care through trust in health professionals

- **The purpose of the law adopted at the National Assembly on January 19 2023** despite the reservation of the French Medical Academy and the CNOM is *"to accelerate and improve access to care of our system, by trusting professionals and offering them new possibilities"*
- the French healthcare system lays down the legal framework to extend to paramedical professionals the protocols of collaboration and extends the range of medications, treatments, and routine tests nurses, physiotherapists, and speech-language therapists may now prescribe



the 06 april Deputies and Senators found an agreement,
the final version of the bill from MP RIST.

Under pressure from doctors , Medical Council and medical trade unions , senators insisted on limiting this direct access

Finally, it will be reserved only for those who practice in direct association with doctors, in structures such as Hospitals or Medical health homes (MSPs.)

Exit direct access for paramedical professionals who work alone, even if they are registered in a Professional Territorial Health Community (CPTS), as wanted initially by the government and the deputies of the majority !



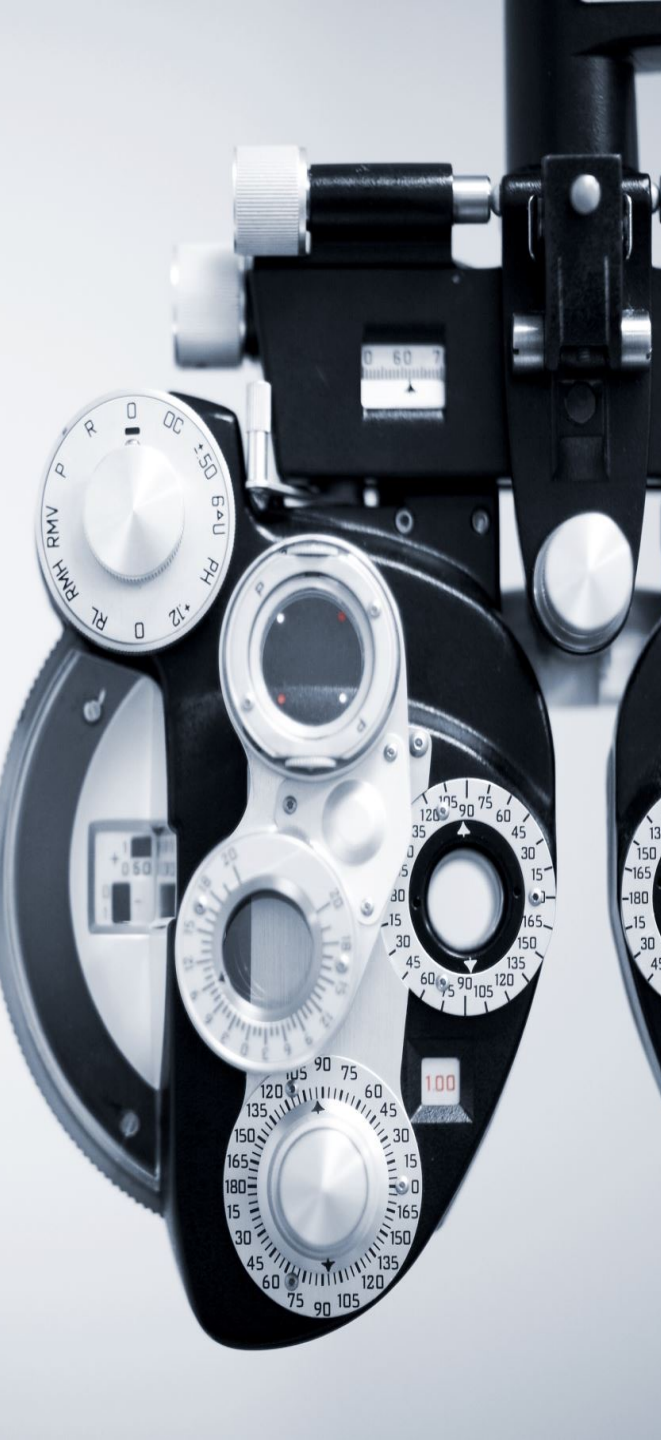
However, the skills of several health professions are extended for instance:

All nurses will be able to take charge of the **prevention and treatment of wounds** and prescribe, **in this context**, additional examinations and health products.

IPA nurses will now be able to first prescribe products or services subject or not to a prescription.

A decree in Council of State taken after consulting the Academy of Medicine, the High Authority for Health and the Orders of the professions concerned, must specify the conditions of the first prescription





However, the skills of several health professions are extended for instance:

- For physiotherapists, the number of authorized sessions would be limited to five if the patient has not had a medical diagnosis beforehand.
- Pharmacists, will have the right to renew an expired prescription for the treatment of a chronic condition three times per one-month supply.
- opticians-spectacle makers may adapt an initial prescription for glasses or contact lenses, with the written consent of the ophthalmologist.

SHORTAGE of CAREGIVERS in French hospitals

- **2 / Limiting interim work in health professionals, by capping the maximum amount**



Interim physicians (about 6 to 10.000) are criticized for being «*health mercenaries*» despite they play a useful role, helping to cover staff shortages .



- ever more interim physicians take advantage of staffing shortages to request higher incomes
- **The concern is even stronger as many nurses and other professionals are now switching to interim work, in an attempt to increase their income as well as to choose working conditions at their convenience !.**

**Hospitals are
facing an
intractable
dilemma :**



- **either reducing hospital capacity because of the shortage of physicians,**
- **or maintaining hospital capacity by employing interim workers**

In 2018_the cost of this practice was estimated at 1,4 billion Euros

- That is why, the **Rist law of April 26, 2021** tried again to limit them



- As the application decree for the law has never been published, the law has not been fully implemented and the situation persisted until the deadline scheduled for April 3. 2023 ,
- with a maximal amount of 1390 euros for 24 H !

Since April 2023

physicians who just graduated will not be allowed to start their careers with an interim position.

- They will be required to first take a permanent position following their graduation.
- In practice, interim agencies will be legally required to verify the graduation dates of physicians before selecting them



3/ Simplifying the certification process for physicians trained outside of the EU (PADHUES)

the decree dec.2022 had extended the initial conditions for authorisations provided by the law of 08 2020 (which provided the closure of dispensation procedures by the end of 2022)

Dispensation has been finally extended until April 30 2023



3 / Extend the derogation certification process for physicians trained outside the EU

- .This transient mechanism was created by the Health Ministry to enable physicians to become fully licensed, provided they can **demonstrate their long-standing activity in French healthcare facilities**
- **This aims to ensure the stability of the medical teams**, by allowing those physicians to keep working in the healthcare facilities where they have been working,

For the 3000 applications which have been finally submitted to the national licensing committee,

at that time we have the following last datas :
(sources CNOM 09 05 .2023)



- 🕒 **30% of approved applications**
- 🕒 **50% of applicants received requests and instructions to further strengthen their credentials to obtain approval.**
- 🕒 **15% of applications were rejected**

4 / lifting of the vaccination obligation for non-vaccinated caregivers

- The High Authority for Health (HAS) recommended on 30 March to "lift the obligation of vaccination" against Covid-19 for caregivers, and the Minister of Health said that he would follow this advice. .
- The decree should therefore simply suspend, not remove, the vaccination obligation for caregivers.

