

# Management of impaired physicians in Europe<sup>(1)</sup>

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## KEY WORDS

Medical surveillance; health care workers; physicians

## SUMMARY

**Introduction:** *A significant percentage of physicians may be impaired at some point in their career by substance dependence, psychiatric and neurological disease.* **Materials and methods:** *Literature review.* **Results:** *While the United States and a few other countries have addressed the problem since the 70's, most European countries still have no national or hospital policy to deal with impaired physicians.* **Discussion:** *According to European directives on workers' health and safety, the occupational health physician entrusted with medical surveillance of hospital workers is often mandated to manage impaired professionals.* **Conclusions:** *Strategies for early identification, treatment and rehabilitation of impaired physicians are reviewed and suggestions for preventive action in European countries are given.*