

**Mertens, Raf**

Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre (KCE)



**Raf Mertens** (born 1956) graduated as a medical doctor at the K.U.Leuven in 1981. During the next 4 years, he practiced in The Kivu (Congo).

From 1985 to 1997 he was in charge of the national programme for nosocomial infections surveillance and epidemiology at the Scientific Institute of Public Health in Brussels. Meanwhile, he obtained a diploma in medical and social hygiene (1986, K.U.Leuven) and in epidemiology (1989, London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and got his recognition as a specialist in health data management.

During 4 years, he was the coordinator of the European HELICS programme for the harmonization of nosocomial infections registration networks. In 1997 Raf Mertens became in charge of healthcare data analysis and feedback and of the development of (hospital) quality of care improvement programmes at the Christian Sickness Fund.

From 2001, he was also actively involved in the development of the Intermutualistic Agency, treating the pooled data of all Belgian Sickness Funds. He was vice-president of the National Council for Quality Improvement (NRKP-CNPQ) and member of the Belgian Healthcare Knowledge Centre (KCE) board. From 2006 to 2009 he was heading the R&D department of the Christian Sickness Fund. As of December 2009 he is director general of the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre (KCE).

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