

Cross-border Healthcare in Europe: Promoting Patients' Rights and Boosting Cooperation



Tuesday 12th September 2017

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels



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Overview

European citizens enjoy a variety of rights when it comes to intra-EU mobility, including the right to seek care in another Member State. Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare codifies patients' right to receive health treatment, including planned procedures, in another Member State (MS) and to then get reimbursed domestically up to the level that would have been covered by their home State. However, almost three years after the deadline for transposition of the Directive into national law, and despite the data showing that about half of the EU citizens would be open to the idea of travelling abroad to receive treatment (Eurobarometer on Patient Rights, published in 2015), the actual levels of patient mobility for planned healthcare are still relatively low, with cross-border healthcare accounting for approximately 1% of the total EU public healthcare spending.

Reasons for the under-utilisation of this tool of citizen empowerment can be detected in a significant information gap and lack of awareness by patients of the Directive itself, as well as of instruments such as the National Contact Points (NCPs), with only one in ten Europeans being informed about them. Other critical aspects to be refined are reimbursement schemes and prior authorization procedures, which differ by MS and may deter patients who seek care abroad. Further, the latest Commission report analysing MS's data on cross-border healthcare for the year 2015 indicates that Europeans tend to be wary of language barriers and the cost of care abroad.

The realization of the full potential of the Directive's provisions is still in development. As recently as March 2017, the Commission launched the European Reference Networks (ERNs), creating cross-border virtual networks of healthcare providers across the EU to tackle rare diseases and conditions. This pooling of knowledge and resources will allow interaction among professionals and medical specialists grouped by specialty, hopefully leading to advancements and improved care for all. Additionally, the potential of telemedicine and e-health, including trans-nationally valid e-prescriptions, is still largely untapped, and barriers include lack of interoperability and confidentiality needs.

This international symposium will provide a valuable opportunity for constructive debate on the latest instruments in support of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive, as well as on the status of its implementation. The symposium will grant stakeholders the opportunity to exchange innovations and experiences in the field, between cross-border regions and national healthcare systems, as well as evaluate steps to be taken to improve citizens' awareness of the rights offered by the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive. Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders.

“It is our common responsibility to ensure that those patients who are in need finding the right diagnosis and/or treatment abroad know about their rights to cross-border care and get proper information on how to realise this. The Directive provides a framework for a number of areas where cooperation across borders might form part of the solution to the eternal problem of “how to do more with less”.

Vytienis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety,

October 2016

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the current implementation, development and challenges for the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive
- ✓ Learn about the new European Reference Networks, the rationale behind them and their functioning
- ✓ Improve cooperation between institutions and stakeholders operating in the healthcare field
- ✓ Examine existing standards on healthcare services and the mobility of healthcare professionals in Europe
- ✓ Define and analyse conditions to improve patient awareness on the contents of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive as well as patient mobility through a deeper coordination of the NCPs
- ✓ Share best practice on innovative and collaborative projects in cross-border health promotion and disease prevention
- ✓ Determine the unexploited potential of electronic-health technologies and the barriers to their implementation.

Who Should Attend?

- Academics and Researchers
- Public Health Practitioners
- Health Promotion Practitioners
- Child Health Visitors
- Family Nurse Partnerships
- General Practitioners
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central Government Departments and Agencies
- Heads of Children's Services and Teams
- Head Teachers and Staff
- School Nurses
- Health Service Professionals
- Youth Services
- Leisure Services
- Food and Drinks Industry Professionals
- Midwives
- Maternity Care and Midwifery Organisations
- Maternity Support Workers
- NHS Training Departments
- Parent Participation Teams
- Parental Engagement Teams
- Paediatricians
- Teenage Pregnancy Coordinators and Advisors
- Local Pregnancy Advisory Services
- Heads of Early Years
- Play Groups
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Family Planning Clinics
- Integrated Disabled Services
- Local Education Authorities
- Safeguarding Children Teams and Local Safeguarding Boards
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Third Sector Practitioners and Organisations
- Trade Unions
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Promoting the Potential of Cross-Border Healthcare in Europe**
- Analysing the Operation of the Cross-Border Directive: Looking into the 2016 Commission Report
 - Strengthening the National Contact Points by Promoting Cooperation
 - Sharing Best Practice and Effective Cross-Border Collaboration Projects
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Innovations in the Cross-Border Healthcare Landscape**
- Discovering the Potential of the Newly Established European Reference Networks in Battling Rare Diseases
 - Capitalising on Available Technologies: Promoting System Interoperability to Foster E-Health
 - Analysing Challenges and Legal Barriers to a Fully-Functioning Telemedicine
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Guaranteeing Quality of Care and Transparency of Information for the Patients**
- Ensuring Even Standards of Care and Equality of Access
 - Assessing the Role of Insurers and Reimbursement Procedures
 - Identifying Barriers to Cross-Border Services Accessibility
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Supporting the Movement of Healthcare Workers Across Europe**
- Monitoring the Implementation of the Professional Qualification Recognition Directive and Its Effects on Health Workers
 - Analysing Needs and Challenges of an Evolving Healthcare Workforce
 - Sharing Best Practice and Successful Experiences
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

- Date:** Tuesday 12th september 2017
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

Forthcoming Events

Strengthening Youth Employment in the EU: Ensuring Bright Futures for the Young Generation
1st June 2017

The 9th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2017
22nd June 2017

Tackling Childhood Obesity in Europe through Awareness and Prevention
28th June 2017

The Future of Tourism in Europe: Promoting Competitiveness Through Sustainability and Digitisation
4th July 2017

Europe's Climate Change Response: Adaption and Mitigation in an Uncertain World
5th July 2017

Eliminating Energy Poverty Across Europe: Monitoring Progress for an Inclusive Energy Union
5th September 2017

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