

Cross Border Healthcare in Europe

Improving Transparency and Patient Mobility



Thursday 16th June 2016

NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe,
Brussels



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Overview

Healthcare is one of the largest economic sectors in the EU and accounts for approximately 17m jobs as well as for 1% of the overall EU public health spending – around €10 billion per year - and is expected to come under increasing pressure as the demand for healthcare in Europe rises. With the number of people aged 65 and above estimated to double in the near future, the cross-border nature of health threats continues to increase. Consequently, the need for better implementation of the EU Directive on Cross-Border Healthcare is vital, as is the continued investigation into innovative solutions and applications of European healthcare resources.

The Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare has been regarded by many as a major achievement of the 'patient empowerment' policy promoted by the European Institutions, granting European citizens the right to access healthcare services in a different member state. Designed to address the obstacles deriving from the diversity of healthcare systems, such as the reimbursement rules and the delivery of health-care services, the "Cross-Border Healthcare Directive" has established a general legal framework aimed at maintaining the sustainability of health systems while protecting patients' right to seek treatment outside their home country.

However, the Directive appears to leave significant uncertainties for cross-border patients, such as effective cooperation between national healthcare systems, some of which struggle to provide care within the same timeframe and of the same quality as is available in other EU countries - including for reasons of cost. Other uncertainties concern the reimbursement rules of the Directive for patients seeking care abroad as well as the inability for some patients to look for care that is not covered under their domestic benefit package. Therefore, the impact of Directive 2011/24/EU will depend to a large degree on the knowledge of patients across the EU of their rights under the legislation and its potential benefits.

The European Commission's Report on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare (September 2015) has highlighted concrete legislative advances at both EU and national level, with an improvement in transparency, patient mobility and Health Technology Assessment throughout the EU as well as by pushing for healthcare reforms in different Member States. However, the report also clearly evidenced the lack of awareness among European citizens about their right to choose healthcare in another country, with less than two in 10 citizens being informed about their rights in this area, and only one in 10 being aware of National Contact Points (NCPs). Similarly, further actions need to be taken in order to improve patient mobility for planned healthcare, with low numbers of patients willing to travel abroad to receive medical treatment.

This international symposium will provide a platform for a constructive debate on the current state of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive's implementation throughout Europe as well as on the necessary actions that need to be taken to further raise awareness among patients and facilitate access to better and safer care in the EU. Delegates will have an opportunity to exchange innovative ideas, engage in thought-provoking topical discussion and analyse best practice linked to cooperation between border regions in Europe and national healthcare systems. Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders.

“ The ultimate goal of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive is to provide all EU citizens with equal access to quality healthcare, responding to their specific needs. Whether that means seeking a second opinion in another Member State or taking a child with a rare disease to a specialist on the other side of the EU, people need the reassurance that they will receive the best care possible and that they will not be left to shoulder the financial burden alone.”

- Xavier Prats Monné, Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission, December 2015

Venue and Accommodation

NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe
Rue Marche aux Herbes
110 B-1000
Brussels, Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the latest developments, evidence-based experiences and current implementation challenges of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive
- ✓ Examine key needs and challenges faced by EU health professionals
- ✓ Define necessary conditions to improve patient information, mobility and safety
- ✓ Share best practice on innovative and collaborative projects in cross-border health promotion, eHealth services and disease prevention

Who Should Attend?

- 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
- Academics and Researchers

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Programme

09:15	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10	Cross-Border Healthcare in Europe: Meeting Patient's Expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross-Border Care Across the EU: Evaluating Current Trends and Improving Data Collection• Assessing Member State's Implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive• Addressing Persisting Difficulties: Prior Authorisation and Reimbursements• Recommendations for Future Policy Actions
10:40	First Round of Discussions
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	Focusing on Innovations in the Cross-Border Healthcare Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing Interoperability and Standardisation Challenges• Facilitating the Efficient Use of Health Technology Assessment Resources in Europe• Conclusions and Recommendations
12:00	Second Round of Discussions
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Ensuring Patients' Awareness, Safety and Quality of Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring Patients' Trust in Cross-Border Healthcare - Providing Clear and Reliable Information• Promoting Accessible Standards and Guidelines for Patient Safety and Quality of Care• Improving Cooperation between Health Systems• Future Challenges and Solutions
14:00	Third Round of Discussions
14:30	Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50	Promoting a Sustainable Health Workforce Across Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing Key Needs and Challenges Faced by EU Health Professionals• Better Monitoring of Professionals' Mobility and Recognition of Professional Qualifications• Exchanging Knowledge and Best Practices
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: Thursday 16th June 2016

Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe, Brussels



Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Christian Horemans**, Expert in International Affairs, National Federation of Independent Health Insurance Funds
- ✓ **Dr Paul De Raeve**, Secretary General, European Federation of Nurses Associations
- ✓ **Alessio Picarella**, International Patient Services, IRCCS ISMETT
- ✓ **Dr. Sabina Stan**, Lecturer, Dublin City University
- ✓ **Frederic De Wispelaere**, Senior Research Associate HIVA - Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven
- ✓ **Dr Malcolm J Fisk**, Expert Advisor, ANEC; Director, Telehealth Quality Group
- ✓ **Stella I. Tsartsara**, Gerontologist, Integrated Care, Cross Border Healthcare - Senior Tourism Expert, South East Europe Healthcare
- ✓ **Alexander Berler**, HL7 Hellas Chair & Director at Gnomon Informatics SA

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Young People's Mental Health in Europe: Promoting Prevention and Early Intervention Through Multi-Sector Cooperation
26th April 2016
- ✓ Tackling Childhood Obesity in Europe: Promoting Healthy and Active Lifestyles
18th May 2016
- ✓ Driving Forward Multilevel Integration for Migrants in Europe: Improving Access to Education and to the Labour Market
19th May 2016

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