

Conference on cross-border healthcare Directive

“Towards amplified awareness of EU rights to cross-border care”

24 October 2016

Background

This conference builds on the discussions that took place at the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Health held in Luxemburg in September 2015, as well as on the findings of the 2015 Commission report on the operation of the cross-border healthcare Directive¹ and the Eurobarometer on Patient Rights published in May 2015². These published reports and ongoing discussions show that concerns around patient information and National Contact Points (NCPs) performances persist and continue to be identified as critical issues still to be addressed.

This conference is supported by the EU Health Programme³.

Aim of the conference

The conference aims mainly at:

- Improving information provision to enable patients to cross-border healthcare;
- Fostering better coordination between NCPs;
- Amplifying NCP cooperation with patient organisations, healthcare providers and healthcare insurers for the benefit of patients.

Place

Committee of the Regions, Building Jacques Delors;
Rue Belliard 99-101, 5th floor, meeting room JDE-52, Brussels.

Date and duration

The conference will take place on 24 October 2016, starting at 11:00 and finishing at 17:30.

Participants

Around 150 participants (e.g. Ministries representatives, NCPs, Patients organisations, Healthcare providers, Insurers, policy makers, journalists).

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/cross_border_care/docs/2015_operation_report_dir201124eu_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_439_420_en.htm#425

³ http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2016_annex_en.pdf

Programme

Registration and welcome coffee (10:00 – 10:50)

Chaired by Director Andrzej Rys (European Commission)

➤ Opening, keynote speech and introduction presentations (11:00 – 13:00)

- Opening of the conference by Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis (Health & Food Safety);
- Keynote speech on cross-border healthcare Directive by Mr John Bowis (President of Health First Europe);
- Presentation on the relationship between the cross-border healthcare Directive and the social security Regulation by Ms Gabriella Berki (Assistant Professor, University of Szeged);
- Experiences from National Contact Points.

Lunch (13:00 – 14:00)

➤ Experiences from Member States: the Benelux experience (14:00 – 14:20) (Ms Anne Calteux – Luxembourg Ministry of Health and Mr Peter Janssens – Benelux Secretariat General)

➤ Stakeholders' perspectives concerning information on cross-border care (14:20 – 16:00)

Moderated by Mr Willy Palm (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies)

- Perspectives of patients (Ms Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous – European Patients' Forum)
- Perspectives of healthcare providers (Ms Sarada Das – Standing Committee of European Doctors)
- Perspectives of insurers (Ms Corinna Hartrampf – International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies)
- Exchange of views on how to improve the status quo.

➤ Digital healthcare providing opportunities for citizens (16:00 – 17:15)

Moderated by Mr Tapani Piha (European Commission)

- Building a digital infrastructure for the cross-border exchange of health data (Ms Katja Neubauer SANTE / Mr Miguel Gonzalez-Sancho CNECT)
- Teleradiology in cross-border Healthcare (Prof. Peter Mildemberger - European Society of Radiology)
- Special opportunities of eHealth from a patient perspective (Ms Anne-Miek Vroom – IKONE foundation)
- Exchange of views

Conclusions by the Chair (17:15 – 17:30)