



Cross-border Health Care for EU Patients

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For information – ER-WCPT

- The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT) is a European non-governmental organisation
- It represents the professional associations of physiotherapists from 36 countries including the Member States of the EU and EEA
- Member Associations are simultaneously members of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT).

1. Reimbursement of Costs

- The Directive proposes that an insured person can seek cross border health care (CBHC) and have the costs of treatment reimbursed by the Member State of Affiliation, up to the level that would have been paid by its social security system had they been treated in its territory

2. Definition of “hospital” and “non-hospital” care

‘Hospital care’

- Overnight accommodation of at least one night
- May be subject to prior authorisation

‘Healthcare’

- Included in a specific treatment list
- No overnight stay
- Not subject to prior authorisation

3. Equality of Access

- Important to uphold patient's rights to access CBHC
- Paying in advance - possible negative impact on equal access to services for patients with financial constraints
- Patient's unable to pay the difference if costs abroad unexpectedly increase

4. Continuity of Care

- Information for patients about the contents of a basket of care in another Member State - what is included AND available
- Close collaboration between health care providers

5. Professional Competence and Patient Safety

- Health professionals must fulfill the requirements of the Member State of practice
- Importance of close collaboration between competent authorities about disciplinary issues -benefits of IMI system

6. Standard Setting

- Whose responsibility in a diverse EU?

EU Commission	A set of common principles
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- National authorities Subsidiarity - Article 152 EC Treaty
- Professional bodies Specific knowledge about capacity for development
- Opportunity for collaboration

7. e-Health

- Patient record systems: Language barriers and variability
between systems need consideration
- National contact points: Would another “IMI system” have potential here , via an EU portal?
- Opportunity for patients to be clear about the contents of a basket of care before choosing CBHC

8. European Reference Networks

- Access to cost effective high quality health care for patients with highly specialised needs
- Collaboration on innovative health care science and technologies
- Maximise cost effectiveness
- EU Commission to set conditions and criteria for joining

Conclusion

- Patients, Patients, Patients!!!
- Earlier, higher quality treatment
- International competition between providers
- Cheaper treatment
- More people expected to travel but local treatment preferred - Rosenmoller, McKee & Baeten, WHO 2006
- Closer EU collaboration on standards, research etc
- Greater patient choice and confidence

Thank you for you attention!

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