



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

11TH MEETING

18 SEPTEMBER 2017, 10:00-12:15

VENUE: ALBERT BORSCHETTE CONFERENCE CENTRE, ROOM 4.C

BRUSSELS

MINUTES

Participants: Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, European Observatory, OECD, European Commission.

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and reminded that the meeting of the expert group will be followed in the afternoon by a policy focus group on the impact of primary care performance assessment.

2. REPORT ON PRIMARY CARE ASSESSMENT; WHERE WE ARE AND NEXT STEPS

Federico Paoli (SANTE secretariat) presented an overview of the report on primary care performance assessment and the next steps that will lead to its finalisation and publication (presentation 01).

Three main blocks will feed into the report:

- Analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on the use of primary care, which was circulated to the expert group before the summer (on the basis of document HSPA_1001). An appendix with all replies will be also added to the report (document HSPA_1101);
- Excerpts from the Expert panel opinion on tools and methodologies to assess the performance of primary care (document HSPA_1102, see also next agenda point);

- Findings from the policy focus group on the impact of the assessment of the performance of primary care (see document PFG_0301);

The Expert group will provide its overall steer to the introduction and conclusion of the report, both by written inputs and the discussion at the meeting in December. The secretariat of the Expert group will circulate a draft based on the above three points before the December meeting.

After December's meeting the secretariat will circulate a new version that will also incorporate introduction and conclusions, for written adoption by January. The full report will be then presented to the Council working party on public health at senior level under the Bulgarian presidency. The publication is planned in March 2018.

3. OPINION OF THE EXPERT PANEL ON TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF PRIMARY CARE

Jan De Maeseneer, Chair of the Expert panel on effective ways of investing in health, presented the draft opinion on tools and methodologies to assess the performance of primary care (doc HSPA_1102 and presentation 02).

The draft opinion, which was committed by the secretariat on behalf of the Expert group, identifies ten dimensions of performance of primary care, based on the definition adopted by the Expert panel in a previous opinion on financing and referral systems for primary care (https://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/sites/expertpanel/files/004_definitionprimarycare_en.pdf).

For each dimension, the Expert panel proposes a set of possible indicators on the bases of extensive literature review. The expert panel then identifies procedural steps to go through in defining a performance assessment system for primary care. The section on recommendations was left blank, to gather suggestions by the Expert group.

During the following discussion many experts from the group took the floor to comment the opinion, ask questions and offer suggestions; for instance:

- There is a need of a clear terminology to distinguish between domains, dimensions, and indicators;
- It is recommended to clearly extend the concept of primary care providers beyond the medical profession, and to focus more on the team dimension;
- We should analyse the role of emergency services as primary care providers and call for their rational organisation to deliver safe and effective care;
- Primary care should be seen in relation with other forms of healthcare delivery and with long-term care;
- Changes in the ownership of primary care providers should be mentioned and reflected in the opinion;

- There is a need to objectively reflect on gatekeeping and referral systems to ensure good quality of care;
- Health literacy should be considered both as a prerequisite and as a main objective of effective primary care;
- It was suggested to give more attention to health results-oriented indicators (patient safety, efficiency, effectiveness).

The Expert panel will consider the outputs of the discussion in the final version of the opinion, which should be adopted in its plenary meeting on the 20th of September. The Expert group secretariat will extract a shorter version from the opinion, to be presented as a chapter of the Expert group report on performance assessment of primary care.

4. FOLLOW UP OF THE JOINT EGHI/HSPA MEETING OF JUNE 2017

Lieven De Raedt, co-Chair of the Expert group, reminded the conclusions of the joint meeting with the Expert group on health information, which took place on the 9th of June in Luxembourg.

In particular, the two expert groups agreed to develop the cooperation between the health information sector and the health system assessment sector, primarily at national level between the respective countries' EGHI and HSPA members and the different national administrations involved. Lieven invited group's experts to make sure that these contacts were established at national level, as was already the case for instance in Belgium.

5. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING AND SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Expert Group will take place on the 7th and 8th of December in Paris; it will be hosted by the French authorities and the EIT Health Paris office.

The first day will be tentatively articulated in three sections: presentation of relevant national experiences, finalisation of the report on primary care performance assessment (see point 2), and further framing of health system efficiency analysis (priority topic for the Expert group in 2018), following up the June meeting in Luxembourg. The secretariat will soon call for interest in joining the subgroup on assessing the efficiency of healthcare.

The second day will be dedicated to an exchange of views with EIT Health (European Institute of Innovation and Technology), tentatively around the three topics of innovative funding, large scale implementation of innovation, and big data and healthcare system sustainability.

The secretariat will circulate invitation and agenda of the meeting.