



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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

## **Minutes of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health**

### Minutes

Brussels, 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2017

4<sup>th</sup> working group meeting on  
Tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care  
F101 00/33  
Thursday 15 June 2017, 15:00-17:30h CET

#### **1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting**

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on Tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care took place on 15 June 2017 via video link. The meeting, which was a non-public meeting, was chaired by the Chair of the Working Group, Prof Jan De Maeseneer.

#### **3. List of points discussed**

The Chair opened the meeting by pointing at the report that he had distributed in advance of the meeting, and invited the participants to suggest possible areas of improvement. After, the Chair guided the group through the structure of the opinion and highlighted the necessary linkages to be done. The Working Group members commented amongst other things on the following points:

- Regarding PHAMEU information (graphs), possibility to include more recent data on the results since the project was finalised in 2010. In addition, the group agreed that some graphs provide useful information but some others need to be deleted. The ones that finally remain should be linked with the clusters in "Selection of Priority Indicators for Assessing the Performance of Primary care" chapter.

- Concerns about deepening the concept of quality of primary care through the report were raised. In relation to this point, the group agreed that the quality of care aspect is sufficiently considered in the opinion.

- Regarding the survey on Primary Care, carried out within the activities of the Expert Group on HSPA, it was not very clear for the Group what was intended to achieve by the Survey. The Chair informed that it was a useful exercise that gives an idea to understand the state of the art in the EU in primary care performance assessment. DG SANTE informed that the

findings of the report will be complemented by the Expert Group within the end of the month. An updated version will be sent to the working group once available.

- Need to clarify who is the target audience of the report.
- Is the group recommending a subset of indicators that should be included in the overall performance of the health system or is it a standalone process? This point was not clear.
- Concerns about the organisation of the Group's work considering the time and resources available (the Rapporteur is on maternity leave) in the two weeks until the deadline. The group wondered if there was any possibility to replace the Rapporteur. In addition, suggestions to postpone the meeting were raised. DG SANTE proposed to postpone the deadline at the end of July.
- Opportunity to include in the report the need of knowledge translation which is poorly developed in Europe in comparison to other countries such as Australia and Canada.
- Include some examples given by the countries in the Survey on Primary care in page 18, "Selection of Priority Indicators for Assessing the Performance of Primary care" chapter.

At the end of the session, the Chair highlighted the three important elements that the report should bring to the readership: 1) Understand the dimensions and domains to be taken into consideration in assessing the performance of primary care. 2) What is being done in Europe regarding primary care performance assessment: specific indicators collected 3) Need for creating a learning community to inform policy making.

#### **4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

- Add indicators in the format of an appendix; include examples of typology of indicators.
- The working group will present a draft final version of the opinion at the September meeting of the Expert Group on HSPA, before its adoption that is now planned on the 20 of September.
- Invite rest of the members of the Expert Panel to contribute and give opinion on the primary care assessment ongoing work.
- Improve consistency in referencing style (SANTE).

#### **5. Next steps**

- Send the report of the meeting to the rest of the members of the working group and invite the other members of the Expert Panel to join and give an opinion. The new participant could potentially contribute to part C of the mandate.
- The Chair solicited the working group to present their contributions by the week starting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.
- Prepare a formal approval of postponing the group's opinion after the next Expert Group meeting, taking place in September.

## **6. Next meeting**

The Working Group will discuss the draft opinion at the Plenary meeting on 29 June 2017. The date of the next Working Group meeting will be defined in due time.

## **7. List of participants**

Prof. BARRY Margaret  
Prof. DE MAESENEER  
Prof. NUTI Sabina  
Prof. SICILIANI Luigi

Mr PAOLI Federico – DG SANTE  
Ms SANCHEZ VILLACANAS Patricia – DG SANTE