



# Cross-border Healthcare in 2022

## Recent data on Member States' implementation of Directive 2011/24/EU

MAY 2024

Cross-border healthcare refers to healthcare received by a person outside of their Member State of affiliation. EU citizens have the right to receive healthcare in any EU country and to be partially or fully reimbursed by their home country. To guarantee this fundamental right, the EU utilises different legislative instruments, including Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare.

### BENEFITS

Cross-border healthcare can encourage innovation, promote sustainability and help address staff shortages. It is also very important for rare disease patients and those with special conditions, who may be unable to find the expertise they need in their home countries.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The EU set up National Contact Points to make it easier for citizens to understand how to access cross-border healthcare. These National Contact Points provide information on the reimbursement process and eligibility criteria for partial or full reimbursement of medical expenses acquired abroad. They also address legal questions and uncertainties related to cross-border healthcare, and can inform patients about all of their rights and obligations.

### REIMBURSEMENTS OF HEALTH COSTS

To be eligible for reimbursement, patients need prior authorisation from an official healthcare provider before seeking certain medical services, treatments or procedures in another Member State. This includes planned hospitalisation for more than one night, specialist consultations and high-cost treatments.

### RECENT FACTS AND FIGURES

Each year the Commission collects data to monitor how the Directive 2011/24/EU is being implemented in the EU. The Commission report for 2022 on the implementation of the Directive presented the following findings:



## HEALTHCARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR AUTHORISATION



4552 requests for prior authorisation



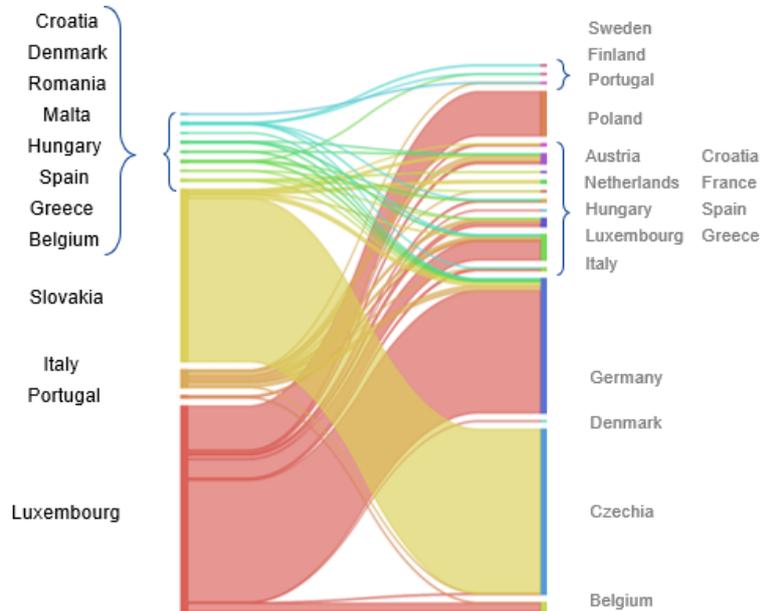
80.2% were authorised



Over € 7,7 million were reimbursed

In 2022, 94% of the authorisation requests were made by patients in Germany, Luxembourg, and Slovakia. The vast majority of requests were granted.

When requests were refused, it was primarily because the same type of healthcare could be provided in the country of affiliation within a justifiable time limit.



\*Only those countries that could detail country breakdown are shown  
Authorised requests and country of treatment

## HEALTHCARE NOT SUBJECT TO PRIOR AUTHORISATION



547 890 requests for reimbursement

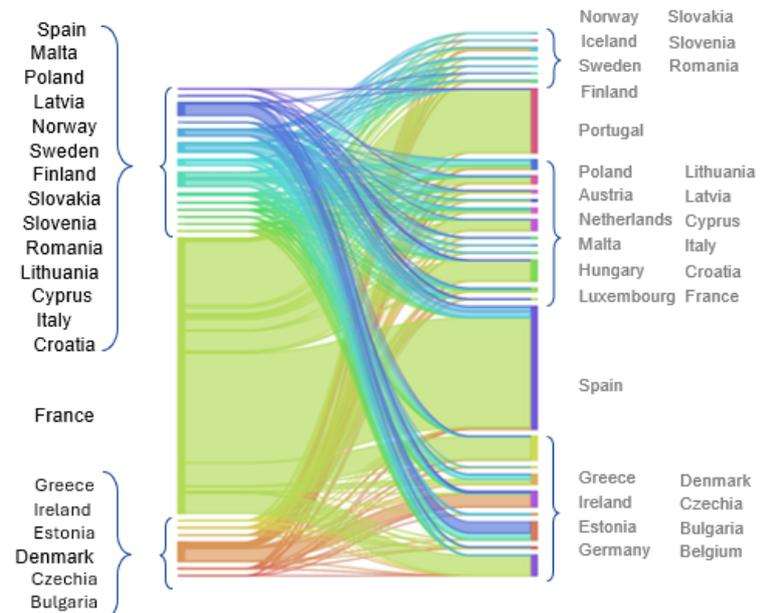


83.5% were reimbursed



Over € 86 million reimbursed in 2022

84% of the total requests for reimbursement came from France and Germany. Patients from these two countries were mainly requesting healthcare in a country bordering their own.



\*Only those countries that could detail country breakdown are shown  
Granted requests and country of treatment

## FIND OUT MORE

For more detailed information, consult the European Commission's website on cross-border healthcare: "Commission Report on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare".

The Commission continues supporting the implementation of the Directive with specific actions funded under the EU4Health Programme.



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