

EXPERT PANEL ON EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH

Request for a scientific opinion: Tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care

Background – Rationale

The Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment was established in November 2014, at request from the Council Working Party on Public Health at Senior Level. Among the main goals of the Expert Group there is the identification of tools and methodologies to support policy maker in assessing the performance of health systems.

The Expert Group decided to focus each year of activity on a specific priority area: in 2015 it was the assessment of quality care (see report in attachment), and in 2016 the assessment of the performance of integrated care (report under finalisation).

The priority area for the year 2017 is the assessment of the performance of primary care. The final goal, according to the group's terms of reference, is to identify tools and methodologies to support policy makers in the assessment and improvement of the performance of primary care services.

Practically, the collection and analysis of tools and methodologies is done by a subgroup of experts appointed by Member States. The sub-group's findings will be collected in a report that will be published at the beginning of 2018. This report will be presented and discussed in the Council Working Party on Public Health at Senior Level and likely presented to the Ministers of Health at their EU meeting.

The Expert Panel may provide useful inputs to contribute to the debate.

Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel on Health

The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health is requested to provide its views on:

- (a) Dimensions and domains to be taken into consideration in assessing the performance of primary care. The Expert Panel should identify both classical dimensions of HSPA that can be applied to the assessment of primary care (effectiveness, access, etc.) and tailored domains that are specific to primary care.
- (b) Specific indicators to be collected and analysed to give a better understanding of the performance of primary care. The Expert Panel should distinguish whether the indicators are already available and used regularly, or if they are

still in their piloting phase. The Panel will present indicators that are comparable across countries, but also indicators that are only collected according to specific national or subnational methodologies, but whose development is worth exploring.

- (c) How the analysed indicators are fitted for policy making: do they allow the identification of specific levers and policy actions to respond to the highlighted issues?
- (d) Advice for an EU agenda on performance assessment of primary care: goals, opportunities, activities, and possible deliverables.

Timing

Ideally the opinion of the Panel should be finalised by September 2017.

Enclosures

First report of the Expert Group on HSPA: “So What? Strategies across Europe to assess quality of care”

Draft of the second report of the Expert Group on HSPA on the assessment of the performance of integrated care

Opinion of the Expert Panel on the Definition and endorsement of criteria to identify priority areas when assessing the performance of health systems

Opinion of the Expert Panel on a Definition of a frame of reference in relation to primary care with a special emphasis on financing systems and referral systems

Orientation note on the performance assessment of primary care, from the Expert Group on HSPA (December 2016)

Performance of general medicine in Belgium; A check-up (NIHDI, 2012)

Kringos, Dionne Sofia; The Strength of Primary Care in Europe, 2012

Health at a Glance 2016 – State of health in the EU cycle.