



## **Final Minutes of meeting Cross-border Healthcare Expert Group 11 March 2016, 10:00-16:30**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

- Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Norway.
- Excused: Austria and Cyprus.

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed all delegates and presented the agenda which was adopted without modification. The Expert Group members agreed to share email addresses within the group. The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting i.e. to discuss the Commission's report to the Council and the European Parliament on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU adopted 4 September 2015; share experiences implementing the Directive 2011/24/EU; exchange views on further joint work of the Cross-border Healthcare Expert Group and the NCPs Expert Group.

### **2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIRECTIVE 2011/24/EU**

The most recent implementation report on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU was addressed by the Commission services. The Chair outlined the main conclusions of the report which was discussed at the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Health in Luxemburg on 24-25 September 2015 and during an in-depth, dedicated implementation session at the Parliament ENVI Committee meeting on 23 February 2016. The Chair indicated that, the Committee of the Regions had also organised a hearing on the implementation of the Directive on 29 February 2016. The former Luxembourgish Presidency gave comprehensive feedback on the Ministerial meeting held last September. The implementation report was then briefly summarized by the Commission services.

United-Kingdom and Hungary presented examples of their national experiences and highlighted their perspective on the challenges ahead.

This was followed by a discussion where several topics came up:

- a better clarification on the relationship between Regulation 883/2004 and Directive 2011/24;

- the information provided to patients should be timely and of good quality in all Member States; and
- the risk of fraud and over pricing needs attention.

The Commission services updated the Expert Group on the state of play of European Reference Networks.

Jonathan Olsson Consulting gave a presentation on a revised data collection questionnaire followed by an exchange of views. The Commission services will send out the final version of the questionnaire towards the end of March / beginning of April. This questionnaire will have to be filled in by the 15 July 2016. The report on the results of the 2016 data collection exercise (containing data for the reporting year 2015) will be ready for Member States' comments by October 2016.

### **3. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CITIZENS**

The Commission services gave a presentation on the evaluative study<sup>1</sup> published in May 2015 on the operation of the Directive 2011/24/EU. Afterwards, the European Patients Forum presented the realities faced by patients when using the Directive 2011/24/EU. The option of a 360° feedback exercise on NCP systems was discussed and welcomed by the participants.

During the discussion the following topics were covered:

- NCPs' obligation based on the Directive to provide information for incoming and ongoing patients;
- languages used by NCPs; and
- quality of information;
- the end-user perspective.

### **4. WORKING TOGETHER**

The Commission services gave a presentation on IMI (Internal Market Information system). The Commission services explained that IMI could be expanded to other topics if there is a need for this and if it is legally possible based on the Directive.

An overview of the pilot network of hospitals related to payment of care for cross-border patients was given by two representatives of the HoNCAB project. The HoNCAB project started in 2012 with the aim to obtain a better understanding of the financial and organisational requirements arising from the implementation of the cross-border healthcare Directive. To reach this goal, the project set up a pilot network of hospitals, allowing members from different Member States to share practical experiences, problems and solutions related to cross-border healthcare. The final conference of the project took place on 18 February 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/cross\\_border\\_care/docs/2015\\_evaluative\\_study\\_frep\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/cross_border_care/docs/2015_evaluative_study_frep_en.pdf)

The Commission services summarized the invoice exercise report, which was based on a workshop held in 2014 where delegates from the Member States as participants agreed to take part in an exercise comparing the invoice data required for reimbursement in cases of cross-border healthcare.

To conclude, the Chair outlined that the Commission services will continue to co-operate with the Cross-border healthcare Expert Group and with national NCP systems to pursue its efforts in allowing the Directive to deliver its full potential for the benefit of all EU citizens.

## **5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked the participants and the colleagues who organised the meeting for the excellent work that is being carried out.