



**Course: FALK1 Pharmacy Practice**

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**Topic:**

**Cross bordering health care**



## Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

### The proposal of directive is:

- to ensure free **movement of health services** and a **high level of health protection**
- to clarify the **rules on access to healthcare** in another EU country, including reimbursement

### Aims of directive:

1. Ensure **rights to reimbursement** for healthcare
2. Provide assurance about **safety** and **quality**
3. Establish **cooperation** between health systems



## 1. aim: Helping patients

### National Contact Points (NCP)

#### ➤ Information to patients

Patients have access to all relevant information via **National Contact Points (NCP)**

- at national level, at least one National Contact Point

#### ➤ Safeguards for health systems - conditions of reimbursement:

National health authorities - **pay out ONLY for healthcare that correspond to the benefits provided in its territory**

Patients - **pay NO MORE for treatments they would pay for at home**



## 2. aim: Quality and Safety

- Transparency and accountability of system
- Member States responsibility of health care provided
- Cooperation of Member States



### 3. aim: Cooperation between health systems

- Recognition of prescriptions
- eHealth system
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA)



## TERMINOLOGY

### Healthcare

- means **health services** provided by health professionals to patients to assess, maintain or restore their state of health, including the **prescription, dispensation and provision of medicinal products and medical devices**

### Cross-border healthcare

- means healthcare provided or prescribed in a **Member State of EU other than the Member State of affiliation**

### Member State of affiliation

- means the Member State that is **competent to grant to the insured person** a prior authorisation to receive appropriate treatment outside the Member State of resident



## What is the EU Directive on Cross Border Healthcare **all about?**

- assumption:
  - citizen of the EU has the **right to travel, live and work** in any Member State of EU

**Basic right to healthcare** can be summed up as:

- if you are entitled to healthcare in your **own country** (the Member State of affiliation),  
you can choose to get treated **in another EU country**, whether your healthcare is provided by **state** or by **private insurer**



## What **scale** in Cross Border Healthcare are we talking about?

- patients prefer to receive healthcare in their own country
- this estimate includes cross-border healthcare which patients had not planned in advance





## **Limitation** of Cross Border Healthcare

Cross Border Healthcare **should not apply** to health services:

- **long- term care services** provided by:
  - home care services
  - in assisted living facilities
  - in residential homes or housing
- **organ transplantations**
- **public vaccination programmes against infectious diseases**
- **sale of medicinal products and medical devices over Internet**



Healthcare may be **subject to prior authorisation** by the Member State of affiliation:

1. It is necessary to plan this treatment („planned care“)
  2. Treatment present a risk for patient or population
  3. Healthcare is provided by healthcare provider that give serious concerns relating to quality or safety of provided care
- the Member State of affiliation may refuse to grant healthcare to patient prior its authorisation



### **3 categories of treatments**

that are reimbursed in the frame of healthcare provided in a Member State of EU other than the Member State of affiliation:

Cross Border Healthcare should apply to health services:

- medical treatments
- dental and orthodontic treatments
- cosmetic and plastic surgery



Cross Border Healthcare **should apply** to dispensed / sold:

- **drugs (medicinal products)**
- **medicinal devices**

**Prescription, dispensation and provision of medicinal products (and medical devices)** where these are provided in context of health service

- patient purchases medicinal products (and medical devices) in a Member State of EU other than the Member State of affiliation
- patient purchases medicinal products (and medical devices) in another Member State of EU than that in which the prescription was issued



## **Cross bordering health care in Czech Republic**

**System of drug dispensation in a pharmacy  
to incomer patient from other Member State of EU**



**a) Patient is in Czech on **short stay****

– business trip, trip, holiday,...

- Patient has right to receive **immediate health care**

– receive endorsement (bill) from physician, pharmacist

= **payment for cross-border treatment upfront**



**b) Patient is in Czech on **long stay****

– students, migrant workers, pensioners, ...

**1. Step: Patient choose health insurance company**

- Ask insurance company for insurance validation for the stopping time (residence) in Czech
  - This validation is available only for immediate health care



2. Step: On the basis of this validation pharmacist dispense drug to patient
  - with the same fees as for domestic patients
  
3. Step: Pharmacist bill this drug to insurance company





**Also health care providers need to understand what's going on...**

Document:

- **“Your rights to treatment in Europe - a UK patient's guide to the EU Directive”**

[www.treatmentabroad.com/eu](http://www.treatmentabroad.com/eu)



## **Benefits of Cross Border Healthcare system for patient**

- in the case of hospital care
  - patients are able to choose their healthcare provider
- in the case of non-hospital care
  - patients are able to seek healthcare abroad without prior authorisation or formalities, and claim reimbursement upon their return home
- (for planned care - a patient must apply for prior authorisation)
- **patients will be reimbursed the same amount as they would receive in their own country for the same type of healthcare**