

From: Dana Carlsson [danasven@yahoo.se]
Sent: mercredi 31 janvier 2007 23:09
To: SANCO-HEALTH-SERVICES-CONSULT
Subject: Patient mobility - Public consultation

I refer to the Call for public consultation regarding Community action on health services and would like to underline the importance of patient mobility across the European Union.

In my point of view, Commission's public consultation on patient mobility and health services is an outstanding initiative to improve practical co-operation between Member States in this field of actions.

It is obvious, that the implementation of patient mobility meets many obstacles, especially regarding reimbursement of the costs incurred in another Member State.

In my opinion, if a patient, who is authorized to medical care in his/her home country, has right to seek medical and dental care in any Member State, reimbursement of his/her costs for health care abroad should be out of question.

However, praxis of today is another. For example. According to Swedish statistics the number of citizens who applied for reimbursement for their treatment abroad was 1050 persons in 2005 and 1010 persons in the first half a year of 2006. About 10% of claims for reimbursement of medical and dental expences was refused. The question is how many claims would be refused, if patients were treated in their home country. Probably, 0%.

I believe, that the most refusals of the applications for reimbursement of the costs for medical treatment abroad depend on how the responsible authorities in home country evaluate the questions which an applicant is to answer regarding diagnosis in detail, choice and description of treatment, reasons of treatment abroad etc.

It seems, that in order to promote the implementation of patient mobility, it would be valuable, if the same standard application form would be used in all Member States. The questions should be eligible and relevant. It also should be clarified, what documents are to be attached to the application form in annexes (verified specifications of the costs, etc).

Last not least, when asking the questions the responsible authorities in the home country should be aware of the fact that doctors in many Member States are forbidden by law to inform the third person on diagnosis of their patients. Therefore, the necessary questions within this professional area should be based on ethical principals and should respect personal integrity of the patient.

Yours faithfully,

Dana Carlsson

Stava rätt! Stava lätt! Yahoo! Mails stavkontroll tar hand om tryckfelen och mycket mer! Få den på <http://se.mail.yahoo.com>

This paper represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumer Protection DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.