Opinion on Tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care.

Strong primary care can contribute to consolidating the overall health system’s performance by providing affordable and accessible care, guiding patients through the health system to find the most appropriate care (substantially reducing avoidable hospital admissions), focusing on individual needs and offering tailored, patient-centred care.

The Expert Panel on Health is currently working on an Opinion on «tool and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care» as part of its continued work on innovation in care. This Opinion will also contribute to the work of the Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA), which has among its main goals for the current year the identification of tools and methodologies to support policy makers in assessing the performance of primary healthcare systems.

In particular, the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health is requested to provide its views on:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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?

4. Advice for an EU agenda on performance assessment of primary care: goals, opportunities, activities, and possible deliverables.

The opinion of the Panel is expected to be finalised in September 2017, and will feed into the Expert Group report on primary care, which will be published in the first quarter of 2018.

The expert Panel

The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health is an interdisciplinary and independent group established by the European Commission to provide non-binding advice. The Expert Panel aims to provide the necessary evidence that will support the EU countries in delivering high quality care and making their health systems more resilient and efficient whilst improving accessibility to all.

They currently work on questions related to:

- Innovation in pricing models for innovative medicines
- Access to healthcare in the EU
- Assessing the performance of health systems