

IHEA PRECONFERENCE SEMINAR

Patient mobility in Europe

Day 10th July 2005

Time 14-17h

The freedom of movement of people, together with goods, services and capital are among the driving forces towards a sustained development of Europe and its institutions. Freedom of movement has greatly improved through many mechanisms that allow European citizens to have similar rights when working, travelling or residing in another state in Europe.

In the field of healthcare a great deal of work has been done to improve the services provided to migrant workers, but healthcare services are limited when a citizen travels in other than work related circumstances. In recent years several decisions of the European Court of Justice confirmed the rights of a citizen to be reimbursed for health care services provided in another European Union Member State, which defies national responsibilities for health care.

During the Spanish presidency a meeting of health ministers in Malaga in February 2002, followed by a technical encounter in Menorca in May of the same year opened the way for the conclusions of the Health Council meeting in June 2002 on patient mobility. In the following a reflection process involving all European ministers led to first conclusions in December 2003, a communication from the European Commission in May 2004, while a European Parliament report is now in preparation. In the meantime the newly created High Level Reflection group on Health Systems and Medical Care¹ is trying in various working groups to find ways improve the mobility of patients in Europe. Under the European Sixth Framework Research Program and the European Public Health Program different projects have started which look into the various aspects related to patients mobility in Europe with the aim to provide evidence and guidance to new policy measures at different levels.

This Preconference seminar reviews the research in progress on the patient mobility in Europe presented by their coordinators:

- The patient mobility in Europe: a policy issue in the European construction, Isabel de la Mata, REPER, Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo, Bruselas.
- Europe for Patients – the future for Patients in Europe, Magdalene Rosenmöller, IESE Business School, Barcelona
- Marquis - Methods of assessing response to quality improvement strategies, Rosa Suñol, Fundación Avedis Donabedian, FAD, Barcelona
- Health Basket - Health benefits and service costs in Europe, Healthbasket, Reinhard Busse, Technical University Berlin (with EHMA, the European Health Management Association)

Chairman

Joan Cornet, General Secretary, Department of Health, Generalitat de Catalunya

¹ cf. www.europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/patient_mobility_en.htm

Organizers

Marta Segura, General Director, Department of Health, Generalitat de Catalunya

Lluís Bohigas, Policy advisor, Department of Health, Generalitat de Catalunya