Patients on the Move in Europe

Health as a special Service

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Moving patients . . . .
The new Europeans….

Patient Mobility = Opportunity

a Headache for EU Policy Makers?

- **Constraints** of cross border context = **Drivers** for innovation
  - new ideas, solutions, exchanges at the interface of different systems
- **Challenges** for Patients and Health Systems = **Opportunities** for improvement at all levels
  ➔ put Health Systems on the European Agenda
- **DG Sanco Consultation process**
  a new Health Services ‘initiative’,...
  ➔ to be continued under the German EU Presidency

Paradox??
Factors of Patient Mobility

Very small in number (??)

• Distance / Ease of Travel
• Access to health Care Abroad
• Availability of Care
• Learning by Doing (OSE)

Coverage

• 1408/71 European Health Insurance Card
• Travel insurances
• Direct payment
• Contracting
• Reimbursement
• Kohll / Decker, ..
Types of Patients

Type of patients
• Being abroad when in need of care
  – ST visitors, double residence, LT residents
  – Going abroad to receive care
  – As close to home as possible
  – Pull (familiar), push (weakness home system)

Type of Care
• 1408/71
• Institutionally arranged Care
• Self Managed Care
OBJECTIVES

to contribute scientific evidence that will enable policy makers at EU, national & regional level to take concerted and coordinated action to allow Europe’s citizens / patients to benefit from enhanced mobility in Europe 2004 - 2007

IESE Business School (Spain)
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LSE, London (UK)
OSE, Brussels (B)
Ghent University (B)
CCBS, Belfast
IVZ, Slovenia
Praxis, Estonia
Veneto Region
AIM
European Observatory on HCS

Patient Mobility in the European Union
Learning from Experience

FOREWORD

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Case Studies

1. Cross Border Care in the South-East, Slovenia, Austria and Hungary
   To Abrud, Dr. Andy Hall, Reader in Public Health
2. Cross Border Care in the North-East, Estonia and Latvia
   Maarit Jaar, Riia Jakis
3. Cross Border Care in the South-East, Slovenia, Austria and Hungary
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European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
Learning from Experience: the Case Studies

- Estonia
- Ireland
- UK /Belgium
- Germany
- France
- Slovenia
- Veneto
- Spain
- Malta

Innovations across borders

EuRegios
- Sharing Capacity
- Better access for patients
- One Insurance Card

The new countries
- Dentists in Hungary
- Spa Treatment in Czech Republic by AOK / TKK
- Plastic Surgery for Finnish Patients in Estonia
Other Good Experiences

Direct Contracting
- BKK Taunus contract (German) Medical doctors in Mallorca
- DKV – a Broker for German Health insurances in Spain
- Norway sending their Retired to Spain
- Dutch Insurances building residences in Spain
- Norway buying services in Germany

Hospital cooperation
- France - Belgium
- Gorica (Slovenia – Italy)
- Valka – Valga (Estonia / Latvia)
- Puigcerda
- Strasbourg – Liege – Luxembourg

Norwegian town councils buy grounds to build old peoples’ homes in the Costa Blanca

*El Pais, November 2006*
Cross border Hospital Cooperation

Gorizia (I)/ Nova Gorica (SLO)

Puigcerda

- Cerdanya
- French / Spanish - Catalan Border
Puigcerda Hospital

- Sparsely populated area with one main population settlement serving both sides of the border
- New Cross Border Hospital: Puigcerda
- 2 legal frameworks
- Labor laws
- Adjustments of legal dispositions
- Difficult framework
- Central vs. Regions
- Important lessons.....

Challenges for Patients

- Lack of information
  - On the health care system of the receiving country
- Access, availability of services; arrangements, quality
  - On their rights and responsibilities
- Legal uncertainty
  - Coverage, entitlements
  - Responsibilities in case of malpractice
- Quality of Care
  - Accreditation, Licensing
  - Access to Drugs / Clinical Trials
- Continuity of Care
  - No or poor discharge letter (format, language, concepts of care, liability, etc.)
- Care for Chronic Conditions
  - Diabetes, Dialysis, Cancer, …
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The Future of Patients in Europe

**Health Systems on the European Agenda**

- **HLGHSMC**
  - Sharing of Capacity
  - Centres of References
  - Technology Assessment
  - eHealth
  - Supra national issues –
    - Threats to Health
    - Communicable Diseases
  - Exchange of Best Practices
  - Quality

EU Health Portal, ..
CONCLUSIONS

- Health Services are different from ‘normal’ services
- Complexity
- Issues:
  - Continuity of care
  - Not ‘1 size fits all’
  - Needs active management
  - Needs all STH involved
  - Better information for all
- Not an EU wide Health system
  - But an EU wide framework to support local / regional / bilateral arrangements work

Thank you very much for your interest!