

EN

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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.5.2021)

The Commission guidelines on EU emergency assistance in cross-border cooperation in healthcare related to the COVID-19 crisis<sup>1</sup> strongly encourages Member States and regions to follow the European solidarity shown by regional initiatives, including by the Honourable Member's constituency, to cooperate across borders to provide patients with the necessary treatment at a time of crisis.

The Commission guidelines clarify that healthcare costs for treatment in another EU country can be settled between the national competent authorities in accordance with the Social Security Coordination Regulations<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare<sup>3</sup> provides patients with the option of cross-border healthcare and to be reimbursed the costs up to the same level of fees were they treated at home.

The Directive offers patients a choice of public and private healthcare provider to access healthcare in another EU country and it can therefore help reduce waiting times for specific treatments in border areas and between EU countries.

The Directive requires the national contact points<sup>4</sup> responsible for providing information to patients seeking healthcare in another country to provide information on healthcare providers including medical specialists. There are no plans to create a register of medical specialists at EU level.

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<sup>1</sup> C (2020) 2153 final of 3 April 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Regulations 983/2009 of 16 September 2009, OJ L 284.

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2011/24/EU of 9 March 2011, OJ L 88/45.

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross\\_border\\_care/docs/cbhc\\_ncp\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross_border_care/docs/cbhc_ncp_en.pdf)