Potential obstacles to free movement for healthcare professionals

Disclaimer: Study funded by the Health Programme of the EU. The content of the study and this presentation reflect the views of the contractor and are its sole responsibility; they can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission (EC) and/or CHAFEA or any other body of the EC.

© European Union, 2017
Study on cross-border health services: potential obstacles for healthcare providers

Funded by the Health Programme of the European Union

Disclaimer: Study funded by the Health Programme of the EU. The content of the study and this presentation reflect the views of the contractor and are its sole responsibility; they can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission (EC) and/or CHAFEA or any other body of the EC.

© European Union, 2017
Context of the study

• EU plays significant role in stimulating and regulating cross-border healthcare in terms of:
  – Mobility of patients (e.g. Directive 2011/24/EU)
  – Mobility of providers & services (Directive 2013/55/EU)

• EU has limited and defined role in health policy

• Developments:
  – IMI system
  – EPC card
  – Refinement of language requirements
The study in the context of health workforce planning

*National planning vs. freedom of cross-border mobility of healthcare students and professionals*

Stats from EC Regulated Professions Database

- Countries where migrating doctors of medicine had their qualifications recognised: highest in CH and UK, followed by DE and NO
- Most of the migrating doctors obtained their professional qualifications in DE

*Access to practice → needs to guarantee the meeting of quality and patient safety standards*
Aims of the study

• Identify specific and cross-sectorial national requirements for providers wishing to provide cross-border health services

• Identify the main barriers to delivering cross-border health services by considering how the requirements apply in practice

• provide an estimation of the amount of resources necessary to invest as a provider in order to comply with the different requirements.

Scope: 5 selected scenario’s for 10 different Member States
Approach & timeline of the study

- Mapping and categorisation of requirements on health providers
  - Country fiches
  - Categorisation tables
  - Scenario analysis
  - August 2015

- Estimation of resource demands
  - Resource demand analysis
  - July 2016

- Stakeholder review
  - October 2016

- Start of the study
  - Desk research
  - Data collection by country correspondents in the 10 MSs
  - March 2015

- Analysis of application of the legal and regulatory frameworks in practice
  - Consultation national stakeholders
  - Interviews actual cases
  - MS infographics
  - December 2015

- Synthesising & reporting
  - September 2016

- Peer review
  - Final report
  - March 2017
Requirements and barriers for GPs and physiotherapists

What to do as an EU-trained GP wishing to set up practice in the Netherlands?

This infographic provides information on the requirements for healthcare providers wishing to operate cross-border. The free movement of workers is an economic imperative and right enshrined in the treaties of the European Union. At national level, health professions are highly regulated; each Member State (MS) regulates the practice of health professionals based on specific criteria, such as education, registration, application of the code of ethics and rules of the guidelines of professional practice. These requirements, and the time and costs associated with them, may create obstacles for cross-border healthcare provision.

The infographic is produced as part of the study "Cross-border health services: potential obstacles for healthcare providers" which was conducted by Ecorys together with the Erasmus University of Rotterdam and Spark (May 2015-January 2017). The aim of the study was to identify the different requirements placed on healthcare providers wishing to either establish themselves in another MS, or provide cross-border services in one MS whilst established in another.

What are issues for attention?

Information sources
- Study based on desk research, input from country experts, national stakeholder consultations, telephone interviews, stakeholder peer reviews.
- Ecorys
- University of Rotterdam
- Spark

Requirements relating to the GP as an individual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Requirements in practice</th>
<th>Resource demands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of qualifications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified copy of professional degree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of current professional status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying professional degree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified translated copy of qualifications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Obligatory BZG Registration
Specialization Register (RZG) |  |  |
| Application/registration form |  |  |
| Level of language proficiency |  |  |
| Language knowledge |  |  |
| Language knowledge |  |  |
| Language knowledge |  |  |

Requirements relating to place of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Resource demands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liability insurance</td>
<td>Time 3 months Cost € 2,500 per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements relating to public funding coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Resource demands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration with national regulator</td>
<td>Time 3-4 weeks Cost € 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration with national regulator</td>
<td>Time 3-4 weeks Cost € 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration with national regulator</td>
<td>Time 3-4 weeks Cost € 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECORYS

The European Commission also informed the Budget Committee of the European Parliament that it is aiming to identify the key areas of the proposal which should be further developed.
Main results of the study (1)

Additional requirements - cross-border providers

The fact that a requirements is referred to as an additional requirement does not mean it is not proportional or without good reason.
Main results of the study (2)

Potential obstacles
Cross-border providers may face obstacles when they wish to provide cross-border services:

• Language requirements

• High costs associated with providing the required supporting documents

• Unfamiliarity with the specifics of the healthcare system
“A GP/family doctor wishing to set up a practice in another MS to offer standard GP services to patients”

• Requirements relating to the GP as an individual, typically:
  – Distinguish between nationally qualified and cross-border GPs
  – Are sectorial requirements

• Requirements relating to the place of work and public funding coverage, typically:
  – Do not distinguish between national and cross-border GPs
  – Are non-sectorial requirements
“A GP/family doctor wishing to set up a practice in another MS to offer standard GP services to patients”

Additional requirements for cross-border providers in all MS

- **Recognition of qualifications**: GPs covered by automatic recognition mechanisms, but costs and effort implications vary:
  - Fees: €0 (NL) – €494 (SI)
  - Required # of certified translations: 1 (FR, NL, UK) – 4 (DE)
  - Required # of additional supporting documents: 3 (FR & UK) – 7 (DE)

- **Registration with the regulatory body**: cornerstone requirement
  - Fees for registration vary: €20 (PL) – €538 (UK)
  - Waiting time: 28 days (PL) – 112 days (NL)
  - # of certified translations: 0 (NL, UK) – 2 (DE, FR)
  - # of additional supporting documents: 0 (NL) – 9 (DE)

- All MS have set out rules requiring cross-border applicants to prove that they have *sufficient language knowledge*, variation in required costs and time to achieve the knowledge level (B2-C1)
“A physiotherapist wishing to establish as an independent practitioner offering physiotherapy services in another MS”

- **Requirements relating to the physiotherapist as an individual**
  - Distinguish between nationally qualified and cross-border physiotherapists & typically sectorial requirements

- **Requirements relating to the place of work**
  - Do not distinguish between nationally qualified and cross-border physiotherapists & typically non-sectorial requirements

- **Requirements relating to public funding coverage**
  - Do not distinguish between nationally qualified and cross-border physiotherapists & typically sectorial requirements
“A physiotherapist wishing to establish as an independent practitioner offering physiotherapy services in another MS”

Additional requirements for cross-border providers in all MS

- Recognition of qualifications, variations in required:
  - Fees: €0 (NL) – €200 (LV)
  - # of certified translations: 0 (FR, DE, & UK) – 1 (NL, PL)
  - # of additional supporting documents: 1 (FR, DE, & UK) – 5 (NL)

- Registration with the regulatory body, variations in required:
  - Fees: €40 (DE) – €257 (UK)
  - Waiting time: 13 (LV) – 112 (FR, NL)
  - # of certified translations: 0 (NL, UK) – 4 (FR)
  - # of additional supporting documents: 0 (NL) – 16 (FR)

- Variation in required costs and time to achieve the necessary language knowledge level (B1-B2)
Thank you for your attention!

For more information we would like to refer you to the final report – Study on cross-border health services: potential obstacles for healthcare providers, available [here](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at kimberley.vandenbergen@ecorys.com

**Disclaimer:** Study funded by the Health Programme of the EU. The content of the study and this presentation reflect the views of the contractor and are its sole responsibility; they can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission (EC) and/or CHAFEA or any other body of the EC.

© European Union, 2017