

Workshop 3

Equity of access

Facilitator: Nicola Bedlington

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“ A STRONG PATIENTS’ VOICE TO
DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE ”

- Evidence should be collected at European level on inequalities in access to healthcare and how they affect patients – and on good practices and solutions to these problems identified in different member states
- Harmonisation of methods and functions of NCPs to achieve equality in the patient experience across the EU
- Data should be collected on treatments that are needed by patients but not authorised in their member state, with the aim to effect policy changes for equity of access
- Data on treatment costs should be provided to national competent authorities and the European Commission in order to promote a reduction in inequalities
- A mechanism for providing financial support to reduce burden on patients, based on need – including implementation of the “prior notification” and direct cross-border payment systems

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Information

- Beef up the information provided by NCPs, improve advocacy role of organisations to ensure that the information provided is accessible so that patients who are vulnerable to social exclusion get right information at the right time
- Rights based approach
- Patients organisations involved in monitoring directive

Cost and payments

- Have a proforma invoice with patient protection before treatment
- Direct payments between countries
- Uncertainty of treatment and payment for rare diseases needs to be addressed

Reimbursement

The rate is decided by the patients' own country and is a huge deterrent:

Solidarity Fund: Principle of the richer countries pay for the poorer,

Cost perspective: Certain countries could be clustered together based on a similar level of costs per treatment

More independence in relation to decision-making processes on rejection of prior approval and the application of complaints and appeals procedures.

Establish a European Ombudsman

Report-back from Workshop 3

Raise awareness of NCP and directive

Centres of expertise with the same criteria across the EU, taking the European reference network one step further: specialisation and use and uptake of specialised services in countries where they exist

Political pressure for setting up an ancillary fund to support patients and their families

S2 policy - regulation for payments between governments