



Patient rights in cross-border healthcare – Status, challenges and scope for collaboration

Implementation of Directive 2011/24/EU in Germany

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Status of Implementation

→ existing legal provisions (2004):

- ◆ Patients' right to be reimbursed for EU cross-border treatment;
- ◆ Prior authorisation for hospital treatments abroad.

→ Patient Rights Act (February 2013)

- ◆ cornerstone of patient rights legislation
- ◆ codification of the treatment contract (§ 630a Civil Code)
- ◆ obligation to inform (treatment options; prices)
- ◆ medical record
- ◆ **establishment of National Contact Point**



Status of Implementation

→ Länder competent for:

- ◆ information obligations of healthcare providers about availability, quality and safety, provision of clear invoices, authorisation / registration status, insurance cover
- ◆ professional liability insurance cover
(already existing obligation for medical doctors, dentists, pharmacists, psychotherapists, and midwives;
now also for physiotherapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists etc.)



Status of Implementation

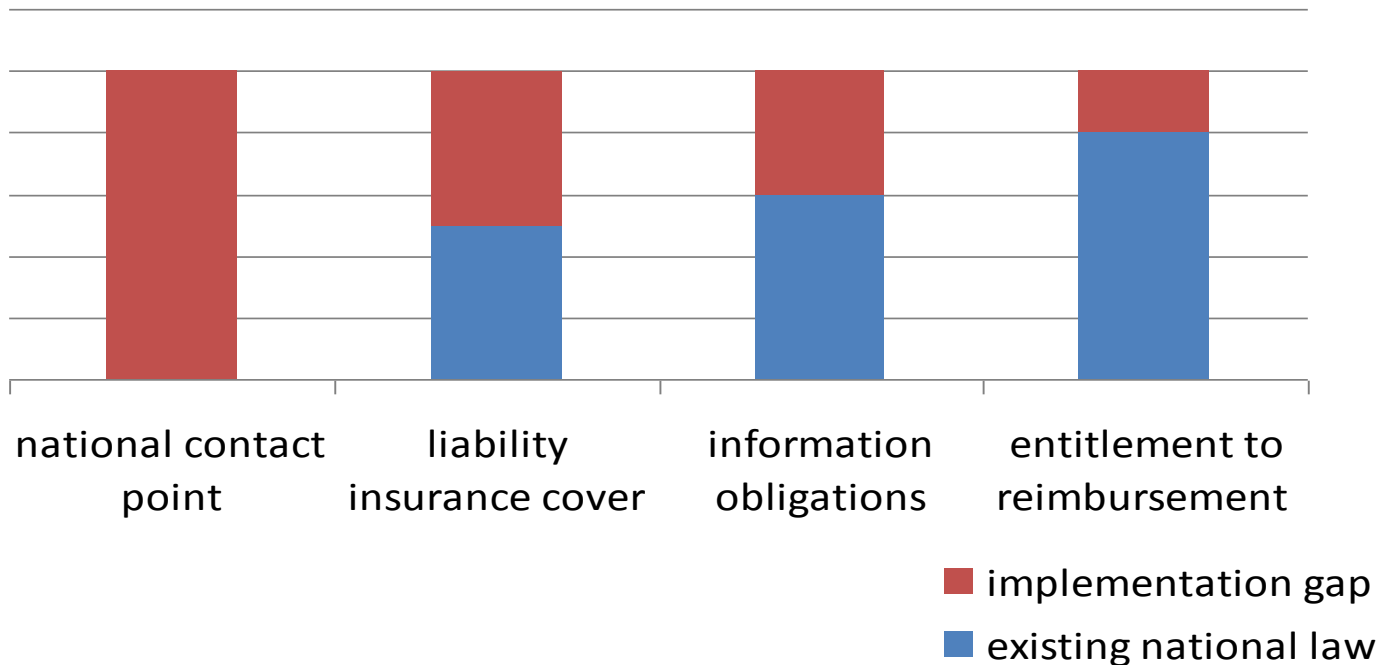
National Contact Point:



- ◆ tasks carried out by The National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Funds, German Liaison Agency Health Insurance – International (DVKA)
- ◆ provision of information and financial contributions on contractual basis by the umbrella organisations of hospitals, contracted doctors and dentists, and private health insurers

Challenges

Challenge in legislative implementation:
„Fill in the gap!“





Challenges

basic purpose of and challenge for **all** health systems:

to provide

- ◆ **universally accessible**
- ◆ **comprehensive**
- ◆ **high-quality**
- ◆ **affordable and sustainable**
- ◆ **patient-centred**

healthcare

(Council Conclusions on Common Values and Principles of EU Health Systems, June 2006)



Challenges

at EU level:

- make the most of the Directive to help each national health system to fulfil its purpose and patients' needs
- strengthen compatibility and complementarity of healthcare provision throughout the EU
- enhance patients' awareness of their options and of information sources



Scope for Collaboration

- Fields of Collaboration laid down in the Directive with long-term perspective:
 - ◆ European Reference Networks
 - ◆ Health Technology Assessment
 - ◆ eHealth
- Collaboration between National Contact Points
 - ◆ develop practical solutions for practical matters; e.g. invoices
- Art. 10 para 2; 3: collaboration at regional and local level; cooperation in border regions