



CPME/AD/EC/270510/061_Final/EN

On 27 May 2010, CPME Executive Committee adopted the document “CPME statement on Art. 14 of Directive on Patients’ Rights in Cross-Border Care” (CPME 2010/061 Final EN)

CPME understands that a proposal to delete or amend Article 14 of the Directive on Patients’ Rights in Cross-Border Care is likely to be considered by the Council meeting on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers, scheduled for June 7th and 8th.

Article 14 provides for “sustainable economic and social benefits of European eHealth systems and services and interoperable applications, with the view to achieve a high level of trust and security, enhance continuity of care and ensure access to safe and quality healthcare.” It is therefore central to creating and supporting effective measures for patient safety by facilitating transfer of patient data in cross-border care. CPME supports the transfer of patient data electronically between secure systems that ensure confidentiality. However it is essential to ensure that the patient’s consent has been given and that the transfer of data is carried out for medical purposes only.

CPME opposes any proposal to remove or weaken Article 14 for two fundamental reasons:

First; without effective and efficient patient information, shared electronically, the *safety* of cross-border care is seriously undermined. In the absence of other effective cross-border patient safety measures, the transfer of patient data represents a reliable method of ensuring that relevant data is shared across borders. Without this support, physicians would have great difficulty recommending such care to their patients.

Secondly, EU-wide projects such as the Calliope and epSOS and the activities under construction like the eHealth Joint Action and Thematic Network, are all intended to improve the interoperability of patient data sets *within* Member State IT systems, and also *across* borders. To remove the eHealth Article from the proposed Directive seriously undermines the value of these projects.

We urge Member States who support the deletion to take into consideration the damage it would cause to patient safety and quality of care as well as the progress with regard to eHealth developments within and outside their borders.