

The Venice Declaration on Medical Travel

Preamble

The right of EU Citizens to universal access to healthcare as provided in their own countries and in countries of the European Union as well as the freedom of choice of institutional or individual health care provider is regarded as being in accordance with the human rights and shall be demanded as a standard. Given that, the underwriters also extend this declaration for a global acceptance. Therefore, we affirm a Citizen's right to travel to request and receive medical care and treatment.

Upon signing this Declaration:

1. We recognize the need for health systems worldwide to respond better to the health care needs of increasingly mobile Citizens who look to obtain the best quality, most timely, most cost-effective and most conveniently located medical treatment and healing capacity available in Europe and throughout the world;
 2. We stress the need to encourage stakeholders to collaborate more effectively in integrating elements of the health and travel sectors together
 3. We agree to the need for a combination of a sound infrastructure, high quality medical facilities and a healthy environment to provide to Citizens high standard destinations for medical reasons;
 4. Accordingly, and in the light of point 3 above, the quality of tourist attractions should be balanced by high quality medical facilities;
 5. We recognize that the main motivating factor for Citizens looking abroad for medical treatment is access to health-care, value and outcomes for healing
 6. We agree that access to medical travel services should be facilitated through the provision of additional health services for tourists and we believe that public tourism organizations should encourage greater cooperation and synergies between the tourism and health sectors.
 7. Accordingly and in the light of point 6 above we affirm:
 - A. that equal access for tourists, whether they be in good or poor health prior to travelling to their holiday destination, is guaranteed ;
 - B. that the need for patient safety should be made a top priority; patients' rights must be, to all intents and purposes, recognized;
 - C. patients should have at anytime a neutral medical professional guidance for the selection of their services, which is excluding controlling methodologies dominated by political, state controlled, cost provider or commercial interests
- We agree on the importance of patient safety, promoting:
- 1 effective medical follow up of patients on their return to the home country,
 - 2 cross border case management executed by medical professionals,
 - 3 patient referral and re-referral systems which guarantee continuity of care
 - 4 economic models which protect from fraud and corruption.
 - 5 We recognize the availability of inexpensive no-fault med-mal coverages
8. We recognize the need for the optimization of ICT systems to provide remote diagnosis and follow up round the clock;
 9. We reaffirm the commitment of our countries and regions, to invest greater resources (financial, human resources, training, process adaptation) to improve the quality, customer orientation and healing competency of hospital and tourism services.

We hereby instruct the EMTC Steering Committee to take the necessary action to give effect to this Agreement as of this day. We therefore give our consent to sign the Agreement below.

Monastier di Treviso, 7th of May, 2010

The participants of the EMTC 2010 as listed with their signature in the attachment of this declaration.