

Médical surcharge in Luxembourg: progress in sight?

Luxembourg, 21 February 2017

Medical surcharge is a real issue for the staff (active or retired) living in Luxembourg. The first victims are Contract Agents, AST's (AST/SC, AST1) and colleagues recruited at basic grades. Indeed the medical costs are the same.

In our leaflet dated 13 September 2016, Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg explained that, on the basis of the Council and Parliament Directive 2011/24, the medical surcharge to Luxembourg *must* stop.

As a reminder, Member States shall ensure that health care providers apply, on their territory, to "patients" from other Member States, the same healthcare fees as for national patients in a similar medical situation.

This does not affect the provisions of national law which allow health care providers to set their own prices, provided that they do not discriminate against patients from other Member States.

Following to the various interventions by Union Syndicale Fédérale delegates, and as stated in a note addressed to the President of the European Court of Justice's Personnel Committee dated 1 February 2017, the Director of the PMO confirmed:

- The imperfect transposition by the Luxembourg National Authorities of the Directive 2011/24/EU into the Grand-Duchy law;
- The opening of a dialogue with the Luxembourg Hospitals Federation (FHL), prelude to the referral to the National Health Fund Authorities (CNS). During the meeting of a delegation of the JSIS with high officials of the FHL the grievances of our services with respect to the pricing of the medical services system imposed by the Grand Duchy to the beneficiaries of the JSIS were discussed.
- This delegation has clearly stated to his interlocutors that the existing agreement with the « Luxembourg Hospitals » (EHL) concluded under the auspices of the CNS gives not only prohibitive and unjustified fees, but also clearly discriminatory, rates for members of the JSIS.
- This meeting was concluded with a commitment, from the Luxembourgish side, to continue the negotiation on the basis of recent and reliable data, taken into account recent advances in medical science and the current use of previously considered high-tech medical procedures.

The Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg is following this matter with the highest ttention and will inform the personnel of the institutions of any changes in this file.

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