

Consistent Cancer Care Across Borders

A clear legal framework benefits patients and professionals

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Presentation of Cittadinanzattiva

Cittadinanzattiva is an Italian citizens' organisation started in 1978 with the aim to defend citizens' rights and promote civic participation in Italy. It has some 90,000 members or volunteers. It works in the health field through the networks of

Tribunal for patient's rights (TDM)

and

National Coalition of Chronic Illness (CNAMC).

Active Citizenship Network (ACN) is the European network promoted by CA since 2001 (90 partner organizations from 30 European countries). It promotes the participation of citizens' organizations in European and national public policies and promotes **European Charter of Patients' Rights**



European Charter of Patients' Rights

1. To preventive measures
2. Of access
3. To information
4. To consent
5. To free choice
6. To privacy and confidentiality
7. To respect of patients' time
9. To safety
10. To innovation
11. To avoid unnecessary suffering and pain
12. To personalized treatment
13. To complain
14. To compensation
15. To the observance of quality standards

“2 Resolutions of the European Parliament”

“1 Opinion on Patient's rights of the European Economic and Social Committee”



The Directive contribution

- It is based on the Common Value and operative principles of EU Health care systems
- It strongly reinforces the **Right to free choice** and the **Right to information** (about National Info- Point)
- It implicitly recognizes the **Right to innovation**: development of the networks of reference to increase the dissemination of scientific and technological innovations and make them accessible to all EU citizens
- It promotes **e-health** in all European Countries



The limits of the Directive

- It is limited to “only” cross border care
- It does not guarantee the same rights in all countries
- It could paradoxically increase inequalities between European citizens:
 - only European citizens from countries with a generous coverage scheme will have a more possibilities to get care in another EU country (**right to free choice**);
 - the Directive could also have a negative effect on the **right to time** (increase waiting lists) in the countries with a good quality of care and low prices



Conclusions

On the long run the Directive may have a positive effect on the respect of rights in the different healthcare systems of the EU:

- Many provisions applicable to cross-border care should also have a positive effect on the national situations (for example increased information on available treatments/ services);
- It will favor the cooperation between MS on many patients' rights.

