The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The European Health Insurance Card



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Objectives

facilitate access to healthcare and the reimbursement of the costs during a temporary stay abroad by simplifying the procedures

Legal context

- Article 42 EC Treaty

- Regulation No 1408/71

Article 22 of Regulation 1408/71

- persons insured under the statutory sickness insurance scheme of a Member State
- temporary stay in another Member State for personal of professional reasons
- entitlement to health care
- according to the legislation of the Member State of stay
- competent Member State is responsible for the costs

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History

- Action Plan on Skills and Mobility (February 2002)
- Conclusions of the European Council of Barcelona (March 2002)

Commission's approach

- Communication of 17 February 2003 concerning the introduction of the European Health Insurance Card
- method and timetable for the introduction of the **EHIC**
- flexibible and progressive approach
- introduction of the EHIC in three stages:
 - preparation phase
 - distribution phase
 - electronic phase
- transitional periods till 31.12.2005

Birth of the EHIC (preparation phase)

Decisions of June 2003 of the Administrative Commission on Social Security of Migrant Workers

- a framework decision
- a technical decision
- decision on the replacement of form E111

Distribution phase

- progressive introduction of the EHIC from 1 June 2004 till 31 December 2005
- Yearly assessment of the use of the EHIC
 - no major legal problems
 - significant number of cards distributed (major increase in comparison with former E111)

Third phase (electronic phase)

- common principle for the creation of the eEHIC adopted by the Administrative Commission in December 2005
- key-points:
 - common objective is a eEHIC with European interoperabiltiy
 - national card projects frame the development of the eEHIC
 - electronic verification of validity of the card is the central element of the eEHIC

More information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_soci al/healthcard/index_en.htm

