

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1593/08
by Karl von Wogau (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Cross-border services by sickness insurance schemes

The demand for cross-border health services is increasing steadily. This has led to an increasing demand for planned cross-border treatments and services that are not reimbursable through the European health card, but require an E112 form. One example of this is home midwifery. This service is covered in some Member States by the sickness insurance schemes, but there are Member States in which virtually no home midwifery is on offer. Where this is available in a neighbouring country, the cross-border demand for this service rises. However, it is increasingly the case that sickness insurance schemes in Member States where home birth is effectively no longer an option do not issue E112 certificates to their insured members who wish to call on the services of midwives in a neighbouring country, even though this service is covered by that sickness insurance scheme but is effectively no longer on offer in the country in which the scheme is based.

What are the conditions for refusing to issue an E112 form and does the European Commission view these as a restriction on the freedom of insured persons to choose their medical or therapeutic service?

Are insured persons entitled to receive an E112 form and what conditions apply?

Does the European Commission consider restrictions on the issue of an E112 form to be an obstacle in the field of cross-border health services?