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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.1.2026)

According to Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are responsible for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care, including the reimbursement of treatments¹. Therefore, it is up to Member States to decide on the coverage of treatments by national health systems.

As announced in the President of the Commission's Political Guidelines² and the mission letter for the Commissioner on Health and Animal Welfare³, the Commission will step up its work on preventive health. Under the 'Healthier Together' initiative⁴, the Commission supports Member States in developing and implementing actions on health promotion and prevention of non-communicable diseases. Examples include the joint actions PreventNCD⁵ that addresses health determinants and MENTOR⁶ that promotes mental health and wellbeing. In addition, the Commission supports the collection and sharing of proven practices via the EU Best Practice Portal on Public Health⁷.

The Commission regularly exchanges views with Member States via the Expert Group on Public Health⁸ on how to address public health challenges, and to promote coordination of initiatives based on national and EU priorities.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2008/art_168/oj/eng.

² Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029.
https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b628b5a2-ac1e-4b9c-bbdd-35b82da0ac6b_en?filename=mission-letter-varhelyi.pdf.

⁴ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en.

⁵ <https://www.preventnkd.eu/>.

⁶ JA MENTOR <https://ja-mentor.eu/>.

⁷ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/>.

⁸ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health_en.