

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.9.2026)

Regulation (EU) 2025/327 on the European Health Data Space¹ (EHDS Regulation) establishes the rules on the cross-border exchange (including in emergency situations) of certain categories of electronic health data for the provision of healthcare, including relevant reimbursement services.

The reimbursement of costs of cross-border healthcare is addressed by Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare². It is complemented by Regulation (EC) No 883/2004³ which coordinates national social security schemes and gives persons insured within one Member State's public health scheme the right to receive necessary health care during a stay in another Member State. The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) provides the necessary legal basis for patient data to be exchanged and for billing the competent institution for the cost of the healthcare provided.

Under the Interreg Specific Objective 1, 2021-27 Interreg programmes can support activities improving cooperation governance, such as removing barriers preventing border regions citizens benefiting from for e.g. cross-border emergency care.

It has been used for instance by the Estonian Latvian Interreg programme in the Valga-Valka (twin city) where patients from Valka (LV) can access some medical assistance at the Valga hospital (EE).

It is also recommended for Member States to take full advantage of BRIDGEforEU⁴, an instrument that can facilitate the resolution of cross-border obstacles.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2025/327 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2025 on the European Health Data Space and amending Directive 2011/24/EU and Regulation (EU) 2024/2847, *OJ L*, 2025/327, 5.3.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/327/oj>.

² Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, *OJ L* 88, 4.4.2011, pp. 45–6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/24/oj>.

³ Regulation (EC) 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems: *OJ L* 66, 30.4.2004, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/883/oj/eng>.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2025/925 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2025 on a Border Regions' instrument for development and growth - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32025R0925&qid=1789569120297>.