

No Pain Foundation

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Malta



**NO PAIN
FOUNDATION**

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NO PAIN FOUNDATION & CHRONIC PAIN



Please allow me to introduce really briefly No Pain Foundation which has been established in Malta at the end of 2014 by Silvana Fanalista and I to create an international non-profit organization for the purpose of carrying out social, educational as well as research activities in the field of pain management and pain therapies.

All our activities are aimed at improving quality of life of people suffering from chronic pain by raising doctors, patients and citizens' awareness on this issue and supporting patients.

Our three main objectives which we have embraced are education (of doctors, citizens and patients), research and care.



PAIN THERAPY AND THE DEGREE OF PATIENT'S PAIN IN THE AGE OF CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE IN MALTA



Awareness on pain is just started in Malta and No Pain Foundation and other local associations are doing a lot for raising awareness on this huge issue for the health, social system and national economies.

Malta has a Government Pain Clinic at the Mater Dei Hospital, and in recent years, many private clinics are opening up, and gradually the treatment of pain is beginning to get into Maltese culture.



The EU Directive on Cross Border Health Care came into force on the 25th October 2013.

What treatments are covered under this Directive in Malta?

Under certain conditions you have a right to seek a health care service or treatment in other EU Member States for planned healthcare which forms part of the list of healthcare services offered within your home country. In Malta, this list is called the Register of healthcare and includes all the services offered by the Maltese public healthcare system. To obtain more information as to whether the health care service or treatment in question is offered by the Maltese public health care system need to contact Malta's National Contact Point.

ISSUES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CROSS-BORDER DIRECTIVE IN MALTA

Are there other routes to seek treatment abroad?

- **The 'S2 route'** in accordance with Article 20 and 27(3) of Regulation (EC) 883/2004 for planned treatment in another EU member state. Only state funded healthcare will be paid for and prior authorization is always necessary.
- **The National highly specialized overseas referrals program.**
- **The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** covers public emergency health care treatment only. It is highly recommended that all persons have this card especially before traveling abroad to another EU member state.

OBSTACLES FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN IN MALTA TO USE CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVE

In Malta Chronic pain is not a disease in its own right, so people suffering from chronic pain are not considered as patient with a real disease.

As Chronic Pain is not recognized as a disease, **in Malta the Cross-Border healthcare directive cannot be applicable to patients suffering from chronic pain**. Although at the Malta national contact point stated that it is possible apply for specialistic visits using cross-border directive. The commission will evaluate when the patient will be back in Malta if the reimbursement will be confirmed.

On the 23rd May 2016 at SIP Symposium the workshop (Chronic Pain: a disease or symptom?) suggested policy recommendations about chronic pain as a disease in its own right. We really hope these policy recommendation will be transposing within a reasonable time.

SIP 2017 will be held in Malta and we hope that chronic pain will be recognised as a disease in its own right and there will be also the **Implementation of article 8.5 of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive**

CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVE IN MALTA



European Member States should have transposed the Directive in their own national legislation since October 2013 and should have put mechanisms in place to assess the degree of patient's pain.

In Malta nothing about pain is formally documented. Currently, there is no law in force about that. It means that in the Governative Pain Clinic - where they have a really long waiting list - they TRY to record the degree of pain but however just in post-operative. Some private pain clinics are starting to record degree of pain but they all follow a different process defining diverse use of pain assessments, protocols and treatments.

In this way, there is not even the consistency of the data between private clinics.

No Pain Foundation in collaboration with Cittadinanza attiva, Pae and many other important international associations asked EU Found for collecting Chronic Pain data on Malta and compare the impact of pain with the others EU members that did this study in the last few years.

PAIN THERAPY AND THE DEGREE OF PATIENT'S PAIN IN THE AGE OF CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE

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THANKS

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