


## *Key issues / barriers*

1. Information on cross-border healthcare – currently no information/ difficult to find
  2. How to make sure the directive is correctly implemented (in the way that meets patients' needs)? Patients & professionals cooperation with national authorities – where to start?
  3. Access – how to ensure that the cost & reimbursement restrictions of cross-border healthcare are not a barrier? Equity / discrimination issues
  4. Prior authorisation – doctors (in some countries) reluctant to refer patients abroad / to admit that a treatment is not available / does not exist - financial pressures?
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# *Challenges*

1. Getting information + awareness down to the grassroots level – both patients and health professionals
2. Financial pressure on health professionals – difficult financial environment
3. Barriers to cooperation with National authorities
  1. Constant change – difficulty in establishing a regular relationship
  2. “Token” consultations – how to make sure the advice given is followed up with action?



# *Recommendations*

1. Recommendations to EPF:
  - Survey on information needs, barriers/discrimination/stigma
  
2. Joint actions for patients & health professionals :
  - Organise a joint awareness event – involving all parties
  - Use EPF's recommendations (translation??)
  - Cooperate on developing/reviewing standards on safety & quality
  - Approach national authorities – ask for a consultation, offer advice
  - Monitor progress, exchange information regularly
  - Get involved in European Reference Networks

