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Healthcare and reimbursement of expenses: the FFPE informs and supports you



The Federation's (The FFPE) commitment to protecting staff's interests regarding the reimbursement of medical expenses is nothing new. After all, the percentage rates and ceilings for reimbursements have not been adjusted since 2007...

We have spared no effort to obtain recognition of our rights as European citizens like everyone else when, for example, it comes to being admitted to a hospital in a Member State, and we deeply regret that colleagues and their families are still not issued with the European Health Insurance Card ([The European Health Insurance Card; the JSIS shares our views!](#), [JSIS and The European Health Insurance Card](#)).

It is scarcely believable that the European Institutions introduced the European Health Insurance Card for all EU citizens except their own staff. This issue is under consideration, and **The Federation** is naturally at the forefront of this battle.

Other battles also need to be fought, such as raising the ceilings on reimbursements for both general practitioners and specialists, and improving dental care cover, which leaves much to be desired...

The Federation has always been determined to get the Administration to come to the negotiating table and open a genuine social dialogue on the issue of medical care and reimbursements. And, naturally, to open the purse strings to raise the reimbursement ceilings to take account of the increases in medical charges over the last 16 years.

Our perseverance has paid off, and it is with great satisfaction that **The Federation** can announce that the Commission has agreed, for the first time since 2007 to the following changes:

1. To modify certain ceilings and also extend assistance for Assisted Reproductive Technologies such as IVF. From now on, treatments can be reimbursed even if there are no problems, and even if certain conditions apply, such as age and the maximum number of attempts (applications already submitted and meeting the conditions for reimbursement will be treated according to the new arrangements) ***this, when this decision comes into force.***
2. The ceiling for GP consultations has been raised from **€35 to €42**; it should be noted in passing that it could have been €44 straight away, as we had suggested, if we had been the only trade union negotiating with the DG HR.... However, **The Federation** has obtained that this ceiling of €42 will be discussed again shortly with a view to a further adjustment.
3. The ceiling for specialist consultations has been raised from **€50 to €64**.
4. The ceiling for certain types of fixed dental prosthesis (e.g. crowns) has been raised from **€250 to €350**. What is more, at the suggestion of **The Federation**, the Administration will define in cooperation with the trade unions a mechanism to re-assess the ceiling every 2 or 3 years.
5. The ceiling for incontinence-related supplies has been raised from **€1,200 to €1,320**.
6. The ceiling for the purchase or repair of hearing aids, which currently stands at €1,500, will not be changed, at least for the time being, as the PMO statistics evaluated by DG HR do not point to a need for it.

Nevertheless, although **The Federation** welcomes this progress, it considers that these increases have come too late and do not necessarily reflect the reality of charges for medical expenses in certain countries, as they have not taken full account of inflation.

On this particular point, we have suggested and obtained that the abovementioned ceilings should be reviewed on a regular basis, every 2 to 3 years, and that all of the other ceilings for medical benefits should also be reviewed.

We believe this to be perfectly possible bearing in mind that our health insurance scheme (JSIS) has a surplus, or financial cushion, of several hundred million euros.

This financial reserve is made up partly of our contributions and partly of those of the Member States, but should be used judiciously and in the interests of staff health, not for hoarding purposes.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that **The Federation** is continuing its long-standing fight for higher reimbursement ceilings and for their regular adjustment based on a mechanism allowing for their regular review.

Essentially, **The Federation** is calling for:

1. A more substantial increase in the ceilings for a greater number of benefits, taking better account of the actual costs incurred by affiliates, as well as changes in the cost of medical care.

2. A higher level of reimbursement, in general, for benefits related to preventive medicine. **The Federation** calls on all colleagues to make use of their right to an annual medical check-up, as provided for in our Staff Regulations, and for it to be reimbursed at 100% as before.
3. Regular reviews of the ceilings, with a timetable for these reviews which would better reflect economic developments (and inflation).

The Federation is proud of its commitment, expertise and results in the areas described above. It will continue to speak on behalf of Staff in these areas, as in all others where its experience and credibility give it real added value.

The Federation You will never walk alone !

The experienced and independent union