

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - EMPL//

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Benefits in kind in relation to the CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) outbreak. Need of a common Social Security approach in the primary interest of the European insured persons
ITALY 16/03/2020

Orig. EN

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

Italian note 16/03/2020

Subject: Benefits in kind in relation to the CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) outbreak. Need of a common Social Security approach in the primary interest of the European insured persons.

Dear delegations,

just few days ago the WHO declared the pandemic for CoronaVirus which causes the COVID 19 disease. In this regard, the Italian delegation is wondering on what approach your institutions will have in case one or more insured persons of the other Countries that apply the EC Reg. 883/2004 and EC Reg. 987/2009 (hereinafter “other Countries”) should fall ill for COVID 19 during their residence or stay in your territory.

By the way, in the primary interest of the insured persons Italy would like to let you know its point of view and gently asks you for a reaction on the following **questions**.

In compliance with the European provisions in place on the free movement and social security rights the Italian approach to COVID 19 is as follows.

- 1) Should insured persons of other Countries fall ill for such disease during their stay or residence by us, Italy will grant them equal treatment (art. 4 of EC Reg. 883/2004)

aiming to their complete recovery. In case of stay in Italy we deem that a valid EHIC or PRC is enough and the same applies for the S 1 for the other situations covered under the Social Security provisions.

Coming to our questions:

Will you reciprocate our approach for the insured persons of the other Countries ?

In case your reply is yes, do you deem that showing the EHIC, PRC, S 1 will be enough to treat COVID 19 patients ?

On the contrary, if you deem that such entitlement documents are not enough for such purpose, will you require other entitlement document ?

Should it be the case, which form are you likely going to ask to the institutions of affiliation of the insured persons concerned ?

- 2) Italy is not going to invoice your insured persons for costs of the COVID 19 treatments but solely their competent institutions via the Liaison Bodies.

May we assume that you will behave the same ?

It should be underlined that only a COVID 19 cure given in the framework of regulations could help insured persons of the other Countries receive safe and effective treatments considered that the threat caused by this fearful virus does not recognize borders.

More specifically in the Italian view it is in the primary interest of insured persons and of all Countries that no one was left behind. Therefore it would be wise that our Countries keep a common approach in the management of the COVID 19 cases at social security level.

Consistent with that Italy wishes to receive your reactions in this regard as soon as you can.

In fact it worth drawing your attention on that the Coronavirus is quickly spreading over the European continent and the world. For this reason it is of the utmost importance that our

Countries can count on each other by ridding of any kind of uncertainty on the way in which each of them will give assistance to insured persons of the other Countries residing or staying by them.

It seems superfluous to highlight that an efficient and reliable coordination system is what we really need. For this reason it is so important that every Country knows exactly what to expect from the other Countries in regard of the Coronavirus health threat that is frightening the world and the financial markets.