

From: 5.1.2e )
Sent: Tue 4/21/2020 5:15:26 PM

Subject: FW: Council of Europe warns of corruption risk in the health sectoramid pandemic

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From: POLITICO Pro Health Care Alert

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To: 5.1.2e

Subject: Council of Europe warns of corruption risk in the health sector amid pandemic

## Council of Europe warns of corruption risk in the health sector amid pandemic

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The Council of Europe <u>warned today</u> about an increased risk of corruption in the health care sector amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"As countries face undeniable emergencies, concentration of power, derogation of rights and freedoms, and as large amounts of money are infused into the economy to alleviate the crisis, corruption risks should not be underestimated," said against Corruption (GRECO), an anti-corruption monitoring body that is part of the country of Europe.

The body published advice for its 50 member countries aimed at preventing corruption during these times.

It addresses several forms of corruption, including irregularities in the procurement system and in the research and development of therapies against the virus. The latter could also manifest in the form of conflicts of interest and in the role of lobbying in the process, GRECO said.

Bribery in medical services and the issue of oversight and the protection of whistleblowers in the health sectors are also addressed.

"Decisions related to measures by central regional and local authorities to face the pandemic must be transparent and subject to oversight and accountability," 5.1.2e said.

Public institutions should provide "regular and reliable information" on the spread and risks of the pandemic, but also on the emergency measures taken in response, he said.

"We should not allow COVID-19 to compromise our values and our standards, including transparency and accountability," he said.

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