

# Cross-border access to primary PCI in Europe

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# Potential conflicts of interest

**Speaker's name: Helen Brewer**

**I do not have any potential conflict of interest**

# European Critical Care Foundation

- An independent, not-for-profit foundation established to improve the performance of critical care
- Working in alliance with Stent for Life Initiative to address organisational barriers impeding access to primary angioplasty in Europe



# Cross-border healthcare - background

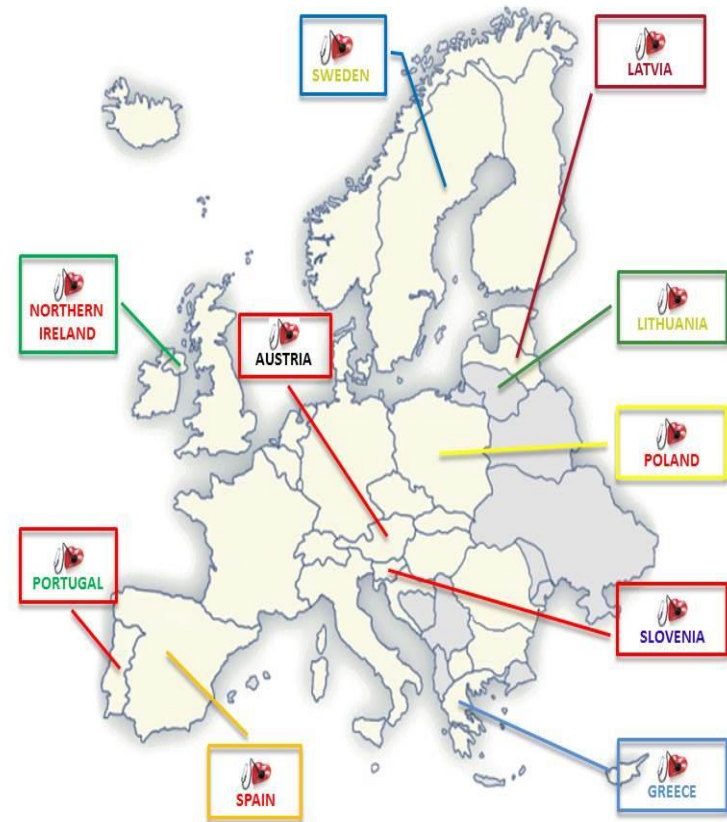
- Patients increasingly seeking medical advice and treatment in other countries
- Characteristics of border regions:
  - Ageing and diminishing populations
  - Insufficient healthcare facilities
  - Wage gaps
  - Differences in costs of medicines and treatments
  - Language barriers

# ECCF survey objectives

- Review the extent of cross-border collaboration
- Look at opportunities and challenges in improving access to PPCI in STEMI patients across the EU
- Develop recommendations to overcome barriers to cross-border collaboration

# Methodology

- Structured interviews
- 10 EU member states
- Develop policy recommendations for healthcare providers and policymakers.



# Findings

Cross-border arrangements were absent or only partially implemented. Barriers mentioned included:

- Reimbursement systems
- Organisation and cost of Emergency Medical Systems
- Common EU emergency number 112
- Inconsistent data registries
- Joint training programs for healthcare professionals

# Conclusions & recommendations

- Barriers are largely a question of legal structures, institutional arrangements, economics and politics.
- Protocols – collaborative policies for optimal management of STEMI between countries with shared borders – are needed
- Political action at national and EU level is needed in order to overcome internal as well as cross-border barriers to collaboration.



## Next steps

- » Targeted advocacy activities at EU and national level, based around the Cross-border Healthcare Directive:
- Workshop in a border region
  - Event in Brussels during the Italian Presidency of the EU
  - Engagement with the EU Committee of the Regions



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