

JOHANNES HAHN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 6 April 2020
Ares(2020)

Subject: Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme and COVID-19

Your reference: Ares(2020)1631501

Thank you for your letter, in which you raise the issue of the coverage of medical costs linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, and more generally, of the way the Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS) supports our colleagues in these difficult times.

As you know, our Institution has mobilised all means at its disposal to protect its staff and I can reassure you that the JSIS is also ready to address the current crisis. Its existing rules provide for the necessary coverage of this type of situations. Moreover, despite the containment measures, the JSIS organisation is on the deck, effectively supporting our affiliates.

So far, forty-five hospitalisations linked to COVID-19 have been reported to me. Let me stress that they all have been administered very swiftly by PMO.

In practice, direct billing is available to all affiliates whose situation requires hospitalisation because of Covid-19. This is applied swiftly and without undue administrative complications. The calculation of the reimbursement rate is done after a careful assessment of each individual situation in line with applicable rules. In principle, subject to a medical assessment, hospitalisations equal or superior to one day may be reimbursed at 100% with regard to the protocols linked to hospitalisation of COVID-19 patients. Moreover, the JSIS Settlements Offices systematically reimburses intensive care in full and through direct billing. When necessary, JSIS will apply a quick and flexible approach in granting recognition of a serious illness to its members suffering severe COVID-19 conditions.

General practitioners and telephone consultations are reimbursed like any other consultations; however, the requirement of supporting documents is treated with increased flexibility.

As regards COVID-19 tests, we comply with national directives and apply the normal reimbursement rates. Should systematic tests be enforced, the Commission will liaise with the national health authorities on how to apply them.

Let me also reassure you that the JSIS reserve fund is solid and can withstand a severe pandemic like this one.

To conclude, I fully agree with you that clear communication on these issues is essential. My services will ensure that our staff can find on MyIntracomm and on the JSIS website all necessary information.

Yours sincerely,

