

Committee: World Health Organization (WHO)

Topic: Evaluating the issue of medical tourism and unregulated procedures

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Position: Deputy President

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Giannis Makrypodakis and I am an upcoming IB1 student at Pierce - The American College of Greece. For this year's CSMUN, I have the utmost honour of serving as the Deputy President of the World Health Organization (WHO). This will be my second time attending CSMUN, my second time chairing and my 6th conference in total.

First of all, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for taking part in this committee for the 13th session of Campion School Model United Nations Conference. I hope that during the conference we will get to know each other better, prepare resolutions, debate and most important of all, have fun. This particular guide concerns the topic of "Evaluating the issue of medical tourism and unregulated procedures", and it should equip you with all the fundamental information needed to structure a detailed resolution and carry out a purposeful debate. Despite the study guide, you are highly encouraged to conduct independent research to get a better and more thorough understanding of the topic. Additionally, note that the bibliography provides the sources used in this study guide so do not hesitate to use the links to further enhance your knowledge on this topic.

Should you have any questions about the topic, committee, or conference in general, do not hesitate to contact me via email at I.Makrypodakis@acg.edu. I'm looking forward to meeting you all in October!

Best Regards,

Giannhs Makrypodakis.



Topic Introduction

Along with the globalization of healthcare, medical tourism seems to be a rising phenomenon in recent years involving travelling to different countries in pursuit of medical treatment. Individuals travel on an international scale to access more affordable or unavailable treatments and procedures unavailable in their home countries. People usually discover such opportunities from relatives, friends or social media. Moreover, a vast amount of people tend to combine undergoing treatments with vacation so as to combine both at a reasonable price.

Travelling for healthcare purposes includes a variety of operations and procedures. To be more specific, medical tourists seek treatment for cosmetic, fertility, dental and transplant purposes, however they often neglect factors that could potentially pose a threat to their physical health. Medical tourists often opt to private clinics that are usually situated in countries with poor and unregulated healthcare systems and that may not follow the required regulations and safety measures meaning that there are higher risks for adverse effects and infections.¹ They usually choose such countries due to the reduced prices that these treatments are offered in.

Recent data indicates that issues related with the quality and the safety of these procedures are on the forefront. Some of the most essential are poor quality of surgical care and infection control in healthcare systems with constrained resources which can involve greater dangers than the ones patients would face in their home country². Transplant tourism especially poses a high risk for the transmission of fatal diseases like HIV, hepatitis B and C, malaria and tuberculosis.³ Moreover, organ trafficking is reported to be a grave issue linked to medical tourism which raises concerns as young individuals are exploited by traffickers, convincing them to sell their organs with poor treatment and post-treatment care for potential complications⁴. Therefore it is essential to be dealt with carefully.

¹ CDC. "Medical Tourism." *Yellow Book*, 23 Apr. 2025, www.cdc.gov/yellow-book/hcp/health-care-abroad/medical-tourism.html.

² *REPORT 3 of the COUNCIL on ETHICAL and JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (A-18) Medical Tourism (Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*. www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/public/about-ama/councils/Council%20Reports/council-on-ethics-and-judicial-affairs/a18-ceja-report-3.pdf.

³ Weis, Jamie L., et al. "Medical Tourism: The Role of the Primary Care Provider." *BJGP Open*, vol. 1, no. 2, Apr. 2017, p. BJGP-2016-0594, <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgpopen17x100617>.

⁴ Weis, Jamie L., et al. "Medical Tourism: The Role of the Primary Care Provider." *BJGP Open*, vol. 1, no. 2, Apr. 2017, p. BJGP-2016-0594, <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgpopen17x100617>.



This year's topic of "Evaluating the issue of medical tourism and unregulated procedures" has a clear link to this year's agenda theme of "Free Will in the age of Artificial Intelligence". The connection between these two topics is information - based decision making. Individuals may choose to visit another country to undergo a treatment without knowing the actual risks and if information about regulations is compromised limiting true free will. The same can happen in the case of AI, where decisions can be influenced by algorithms and with that way diminishing free will. Both of these topics raise concern about the individuals' autonomy in decision making and that is why there should be measures taken so as to guarantee that our free will will never be weakened.

Definition of key concepts

Medical Tourism

"The process of traveling outside the country of residence for the purpose of receiving medical care"⁵

Globalisation of healthcare

"People getting access to care in other countries that might not be provided on their own or at a less expensive cost"⁶

Unregulated healthcare systems

"'Unregulated' means that a healthcare provider isn't registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They aren't inspected or required to meet any particular standards beyond what is covered by general legal requirements"⁷

Fertility treatment

⁵ Meštrović, Tomislav. "What Is Medical Tourism?" *News-Medical.net*, 23 Aug. 2018, www.news-medical.net/health/What-is-Medical-Tourism.aspx.

⁶ Shorey, Jenica. "Globalization of Healthcare: Development & Impact - Video & Lesson Transcript | Study.com." *Study.com*, 2019, study.com/academy/lesson/globalization-of-healthcare-development-impact.html.

⁷ Access Performance. "Regulated vs. Unregulated Care: Understanding the Difference | Altogether Care." *Altogether Care*, 17 Apr. 2024, altogethercare.co.uk/2024/04/17/regulated-vs-unregulated-care-understanding-the-difference/

“The application of any of various methods or procedures to a woman or man to increase the woman's chances of conceiving a baby”⁸

Transplant operation

“Medical procedure that involves the removal of a healthy organ or tissue from one individual and its transplantation into another individual with a failing or damaged organ or tissue.”⁹

Infection control

“The policy and procedures implemented to control and minimize the dissemination of infections in hospitals and other healthcare settings with the main purpose of reducing infection rates.”¹⁰

Post treatment / follow up care

“Care given to a patient over time after finishing treatment for a disease. Follow-up care involves regular medical checkups, which may include a physical exam, blood tests, and imaging tests.”¹¹

Malpractice insurance

“A type of professional liability insurance purchased by healthcare professionals. This insurance coverage protects healthcare providers against patients who file suits against them under the complaint that they were harmed by the professional's negligence or intentionally harmful treatment decisions. Malpractice insurance also covers the death of a patient”¹²

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

“A fertility treatment to help individuals conceive. Eggs are fertilised with sperm in a laboratory and the embryo is placed in the womb.”¹³

⁸ Dictionary, Collins. “Definition of Fertility Treatment.” *Collinsdictionary.com*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 16 June 2025, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/fertility-treatment.

⁹ “Transplant Surgery.” *Yale Medicine*, 2024, www.yalemedicine.org/clinical-keywords/transplant-surgery.

¹⁰ Habboush, Yacob, and Nilmarie Guzman. “Infection Control.” *PubMed*, StatPearls Publishing, 4 Sep. 2023, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK519017/.

¹¹ “<https://www.cancer.gov/Publications/Dictionaries/Cancer-Terms/Def/Follow-Up-Care>.” *Www.cancer.gov*, 2 Feb. 2011, www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/follow-up-care.

¹² Kagan, Julia. “Malpractice Insurance.” *Investopedia*, 13 June 2021, www.investopedia.com/terms/m/malpractice-insurance.asp.

¹³ NHS website. “IVF.” *Nhs.uk*, Oct. 2017, www.nhs.uk/tests-and-treatments/ivf/.

Immunosuppressive therapy

“Treatment that lowers the activity of the body’s immune system. This reduces its ability to fight infections and other diseases.”¹⁴

Background Information

Historical Background

Origins and development

Medical tourism has been around since 400 BC during the rise of the Ancient Greek civilisation. Back then, people used to build temples in honour of Asclepius, and pilgrims would travel there in search of physical and spiritual treatment. In Japan, large numbers of warriors would visit hot mineral springs which were believed to heal diseases and bring good fortune.

Another popular medical tourism destination was North America. European patients suffering from tuberculosis travelled all the way to Southwestern United States desiring different climate conditions in hopes of ameliorating their condition.¹⁵ In the 20th century, the most sought out destinations for medical tourism were Europe and the USA, whereas in India, yoga and Ayurvedic experienced a revival, becoming a medical tourism destination for both American and British tourists. Additionally, during the 1980s and 1990s Cuba developed special programmes for cosmetic, eye and heart operations when healthcare became gradually more expensive in the USA which ultimately attracted medical tourists.

In 1997, Thailand also became a popular healthcare destination due to the elite experience and the treatment offered. There were plastic surgery operations such as sex-change surgeries at compelling prices in comparison to other countries. Additionally, interpreters were provided by private clinics to the patients as well as patient assistance services. All the aforementioned reasons made Thailand an

¹⁴ “NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms.” *National Cancer Institute*, Cancer.gov, 2019, www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/immunosuppressive-therapy.

¹⁵ Mestrovic, Dr. Tomislav. “Medical Tourism History.” *News-Medical.net*, 20 July 2010, www.news-medical.net/health/Medical-Tourism-History.aspx.

excellent destination for medical procedures and it was chosen by many who could not afford healthcare in their home countries.¹⁶

Date	Description of the event
July 1st, 2004	Thailand officially promotes medical tourism as a way for economic growth for the nation ¹⁷
July 5th, 2008	The Declaration of Istanbul, which was adopted at the Istanbul summit which set guidelines regarding medical tourism in Turkey ¹⁸
January 1st, 2006	The World Health Organization (WHO) introduces the High 5s aimed at ameliorating patient safety by introducing new protocols ¹⁹
September 6th, 2023	The British Obesity & Metabolic Specialist Society (BOMSS) issues guidance urging for UK individuals considering undergoing weight loss operations abroad ²⁰
February 14th-15th, 2025	Global Medical Tourism Expo in London, UK aimed at bringing together health providers and stakeholders so as to propose innovative measures ²¹

Different kinds of medical tourism

Dental Tourism

¹⁶ Guiton, Fiona, George. "Medical Tourism through the Ages - Journal of Family and Child Health." *Journal of Family and Child Health*, 2 Jan. 2025,

www.familyandchildhealth.com/content/comment/medical-tourism-through-the-ages

¹⁷ Connell, John. "Medical Tourism: Sea, Sun, Sand and ... Surgery." *Tourism Management*, vol. 27, no. 6, Dec. 2006, pp. 1093–100, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2005.11.005k>

¹⁸ "The Declaration." *Www.declarationofistanbul.org*, www.declarationofistanbul.org/the-declaration.

¹⁹ "High 5s: Standard Operating Procedures." *Www.who.int*, www.who.int/initiatives/high-5s-standard-operating-procedures.

²⁰ "BOMSS Statement on Going Abroad for Weight Loss Surgery." *Bomss.org*, 2025, bomss.org/bomss-statement-on-going-abroad-for-weight-loss-surgery.

²¹ "2nd London International Health Tourism Expo 2025." *Healthtourismexpos.com*, 13 Mar. 2024, healthtourismexpos.com/events/2nd-london-international-health-tourism-expo/.

One of the most popular treatments targeted towards medical tourists is dental tourism. People from all around travel to other countries to undergo dental treatments because of their high cost, especially medical tourists from the United States of America where operations are not affordable due to the lack of health insurance. There are several reasons why dental operations are less expensive abroad, for example:

- There is less labour and facility expenditures making the procedure more cost-effective.
- It is less expensive for doctors to obtain malpractice insurance or it might not be even obligatory to buy one.
- The combination of vacation and the low cost operations. A lot of dental destinations also offer luxury accommodation as it is common for patients to explore the heritage of the area while recovering after their operation.

Some of the most popular locations for dental treatment are Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Egypt, Philippines, Turkey, Croatia, Italy, Serbia, Czech Republic and Ukraine.²²

Fertility Tourism

Another common medical treatment is fertility operation. One in six couples around the world have difficulty getting pregnant.²³ Infertility is an international concern that many people struggle with and it can be expensive due to its complexity and the amount of time it requires. This is the main reason why people travel globally to receive treatment at reduced prices. Fertility tourism is offered both for men and women seeking in vitro fertilization (IVF).²⁴ Individuals might often choose to go abroad because of their home country's legislation regarding surrogacy like France and Italy where it is domestically illegal.

A big percentage of couples also choose to go to foreign countries due to the ability to choose the baby's sex, which is forbidden in many nations due to moral considerations. These operations are carried out in a short duration of time which may cause stress towards the patient, leaving them at a

²² "What Is Dental Tourism?" *Www.colgate.com*,
www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/threats-to-dental-health/what-is-dental-tourism.

²³ ColoCRM, and ColoCRM. "CCRM Fertility." *CCRM Fertility*, 22 Nov. 2024,
www.ccrmivf.com/blog/fertility-tourism/.

²⁴ ColoCRM, and ColoCRM. "CCRM Fertility." *CCRM Fertility*, 22 Nov. 2024,
www.ccrmivf.com/blog/fertility-tourism/.



higher risk for side effects. Thus it is of utmost significance to choose providers that are verified for offering such services to patients and not get captivated from the reduced fees.²⁵

Transplant Tourism

Organ transplant tourism refers to people travelling to foreign countries to undergo surgery for transplant purposes. There have always been concerns about the origin of the organs (where and under which conditions they were obtained), post-transplant care of the donors and post-surgical complications. Post-surgical complications, like haemorrhage, pulmonary embolism and wound dehiscence, are difficult to be managed if there is early discharge from the hospital. It is also common for patients to receive inadequate surgical records composed in a foreign language leaving them unaware of the details regarding the procedure. Another serious issue that may arise is the rapid transplant rejection due to insufficient immunosuppressant therapy. Under these conditions, patients may face serious infections like fungal infections, Hepatitis B&C and HIV.²⁶

Transplants also have some moral implications, including the exploitation of people living in poverty, coercion in relation with the donors for the provision of the transplant and the inadequate follow up care. Transplant tourism has a clear link with illegal organ trafficking. An estimated 7,000 kidney transplants each year involve medical tourists showing the gravity of the situation. Kidneys are one of the most trafficked organs involving human exploitation and people bypass national systems and long waiting lists by choosing kidney transplant destinations.²⁷ A survey conducted in Pakistan reports that over 2000 organs were purchased annually, $\frac{2}{3}$ of which were used by foreigners for operation purposes. The average donor was a 34 year old man with a monthly income of 15 US Dollars. After donating, they received 1,337 US dollars, which was 400\$ less than what they had agreed for, therefore being exploited. Additionally, while all of the donors were in good health before

²⁵ University, Santa Clara. "Fertility Tourism: What to Know before You Go." @SantaClaraUniv, 2023, www.scu.edu/ethics/healthcare-ethics-blog/fertility-tourism-what-to-know-before-you-go/?utm

²⁶ Flaherty, Gerard Thomas, et al. "Transplant Tourism and Organ Trafficking: Current Practices, Controversies and Solutions." *International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health*, vol. 9, no. 3, June 2021, pp. 102–6, <https://doi.org/10.34172/ijtmgh.2021.17>.

²⁷ Flaherty, Gerard Thomas, et al. "Transplant Tourism and Organ Trafficking: Current Practices, Controversies and Solutions." *International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health*, vol. 9, no. 3, June 2021, pp. 102–6, <https://doi.org/10.34172/ijtmgh.2021.17>.

the operation, only 1% reported remaining in a good condition after the surgery and just 4% of them successfully paid their debt, leaving 95% with serious complications.²⁸

Study, country	n	Patient Survival (%) 1-Year, 5-Year	Comments
Tsai et al, ¹⁶ Taiwan	2518	95.8, 87.8	Overseas kidney transplant recipients were older, predominantly male, on dialysis for shorter period, and with more comorbidities
Al Rahbi et al, ¹⁷ Oman	106	Not reported	60% were male, with average age of 41.5 years; 13% objected to receiving an organ from a family member
Amira et al, ¹⁸ Nigeria	26	84.6, 41.7	73% were male, with mean age 40.5 years; majority of transplants performed in India; infectious complications in 42%
Al Salmi et al, ¹⁹ Oman	162	Not reported	Main destination was Pakistan; <i>Aspergillus</i> infections occurred in 8% of patients
Stewart et al, ²⁰ USA	1	Patient well at 4 months	Case study of 61-year old Pakistani-American male who travelled to Pakistan for a kidney transplant; complicated by life-threatening necrotising kidney allograft infection

Figure 1: Characteristics and Outcomes of Transplant Tourists Undergoing Living Unrelated Renal Transplantation²⁹

Cosmetic Tourism

In the modern society, where looks are highly valued by young people, combining travelling and improving your physical appearance for aesthetic purposes at more economic prices appears to be the ideal option. However many patients do not consider the dangers behind it. The quality of care offered to patients varies from country to country, with some exposing the patients to non-sterile environments. This undoubtedly increases the chances for infections and unsatisfactory results. Inadequately trained doctors are most likely to offer ungratifying outcomes which are often difficult to be modified later and cause long term harm. Additionally, the lack of regulation and oversight can result in the use of illegal techniques, equipment and substances. Notably, the travel related risks shall be taken into consideration since there is a strong likelihood for blood clots and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) that may occur because of the altitude and pressure change making it incredibly dangerous to travel by plane.³⁰

²⁸ Flaherty, Gerard Thomas, et al. "Transplant Tourism and Organ Trafficking: Current Practices, Controversies and Solutions." *International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health*, vol. 9, no. 3, June 2021, pp. 102–6, <https://doi.org/10.34172/ijtmgh.2021.17>.

²⁹ Flaherty, Gerard Thomas, et al. "Transplant Tourism and Organ Trafficking: Current Practices, Controversies and Solutions." *International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health*, vol. 9, no. 3, June 2021, pp. 102–6, <https://doi.org/10.34172/ijtmgh.2021.17>.

³⁰ "Cosmetic Tourism: Weighing Benefits and Risks." *New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons*, 14 Oct. 2024, plasticsurgery.org.nz/patient-information/cosmetic-tourism/.

Implications on patients

Case Study: spread of superbugs in the United Kingdom via Medical tourism³¹

In May 2025, in the United Kingdom an outbreak of antibiotic resistant bacteria known as superbugs was observed among returning medical tourists. These people had travelled for cosmetic purposes to foreign countries like Turkey in which the healthcare systems had poor hygiene and infection-control standards. The UK National Health System (NHS) hospitals had encountered a 30% increase in antibiotic resistant bacteria in medical tourists which can become fatal if they enter the bloodstream. Nurses from the NHS reported that in the past two years they have seen a rise in cases of infections, sepsis and terrible injuries as well as people dying because of having operations abroad.

Major countries, organisations and alliances

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America does not receive patients to undergo treatments but instead are a major “provider” of medical tourists that travel to foreign countries. Around 150,000 to 320,000 Americans travel for medical purposes annually according to the US Government.³² The main reason for US citizens to leave their country are the procedure fees. Medical operations in the US are not affordable for a large number of individuals because of the lack of insurance and that is why they seek treatment abroad. Additionally, many manage to find “deals” combining both vacation and their operation but costing as much as the operation would cost solely in the US. Additionally, some patients travel abroad to undergo treatments that are not offered in their home country due to legislation.³³

³¹ Taylor, Rosie. “Warning as Deadly Superbug Reaches the UK Thanks to Cosmetic Surgery Patients Getting Cheap Ops Abroad.” *Mail Online*, Daily Mail, 15 May 2025,

www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14714667/Warning-deadly-superbug-UK-cosmetic-surgery-abroad.html.

³² “Your Health Abroad.” *Travel.state.gov*,

travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/your-health-abroad.html

³³ Achilleas Kouremenos. “The Growing Trend of Americans Seeking Medical Care Abroad - the National Herald.” *The National Herald*, 21 May 2024,

www.thenationalherald.com/the-growing-trend-of-americans-seeking-medical-care-abroad/.

Turkey

Since the 1980s, Turkey has been gaining popularity as a Medical Tourism destination, primarily for cosmetic and dental operations. According to statistics published by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Turkey has the 6th place in the world with 35.7 million medical tourists in 2012. Turkey is the perfect choice for many who wish to combine vacation with healthcare treatment. Unfortunately though there is lack of service standards in medical tourism and insufficient domestic mechanisms to ensure compliance with international standards.³⁴

India

India is one of the destinations performing the most kidney transplant operations. As with every other genre of medical tourism they are also offered at reduced prices. In India however there is a major issue with patient trafficking. To be more specific, there are guesthouses that are presented as post treatment care centres. There are concerns though, regarding the quality of care provided, as well as the financial demands placed on the patients. Lastly, due to the language barrier, and the fact that people are not aware of the legislation, it might be difficult for some individuals to address these issues.³⁵

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

UNWTO publishes reports and statistics in relation to medical tourism and has been actively involved in changing the landscape for medical tourism. It has published reports like “Exploring health tourism” where it provides a comprehensive understanding of the topic so as for people to be aware of what it is all about and what is safe for them.³⁶ Additionally it organizes regional conferences and high level forums fostering dialogue and international collaboration so as to discuss the ongoing dangers and threats of medical tourism.³⁷

³⁴ Omay, Esma Gültüvin Gür, and Emrah Cengiz. “Health Tourism in Turkey: Opportunities and Threats.” *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, vol. 4, no. 10, Oct. 2013, <https://doi.org/10.5901/mjss.2013.v4n10p424>.

³⁵ Pratap, Rajendra. “Patient Trafficking - Horror and Not Healing.” *International Patients Union*, 29 July 2024, internationalpatientsunion.org/blogs/patient-trafficking-in-india-horror-and-not-healing?utm_

³⁶ “Exploring Health Tourism | UN Tourism.” *Unwto.org*, 2020, www.unwto.org/global/publication/exploring-health-tourism?utm_

³⁷ “High Level Forum on Medical and Health Tourism | UN Tourism.” *Unwto.org*, 2019, www.unwto.org/high-level-forum-medical-and-health-tourism?

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN makes reports for the Southeast Asian Nations aimed at economic growth, social development and regional collaboration. According to ASEAN, medical tourism is responsible for the $\frac{1}{3}$ of the hospital annual income. Additionally, ASEAN makes sure to offer safe and validated services to its patients and therefore, countries that belong in ASEAN have hospitals which are accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI), thus showing the reliability that these institutions have.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Accreditation of facilities by the Joint Commission International

Through this effort, the Commission has accredited 125 facilities in 24 countries. By doing that and along with the International Organization for Standardization it will be easier for individuals to know beforehand on what locations and institutions to choose so as to have a reference point in relation to their quality. But there is clearly a need for more strict measures so as to tackle the issue effectively.³⁸ This measure though, is counter effective. While it provides reliability in multiple health institutions, there are still many more which can easily bypass the legislation and there is poor monitoring and overviewing so as to tackle the issue effectively.

World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist

Back in 2008, in an attempt to reduce adverse effects and mortality in surgeries, WHO created a surgical checklist both for before and after the operation.³⁹ The Safe Surgery Saves Lives Group, compared that and found that across 3,733 patients before the implementation of the checklist and 3,955 after implementing it there was a significant decrease in both post surgical complications and mortality.⁴⁰ Unfortunately though, in recent years there are still lots of complications regarding

³⁸ Horowitz, Michael D., et al. "Medical Tourism: Globalization of the Healthcare Marketplace." *Medscape General Medicine*, vol. 9, no. 4, Nov. 2007, p. 33, [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2234298/#R25](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2234298/#R25).

³⁹ World Health Organisation. "WHO Surgical Safety Checklist." *World Health Organization*, Apr. 2018, <https://doi.org/entity/patientsafety/topics/safe-surgery/checklist/en/index.html>.

⁴⁰ Haynes, Alex B., et al. "A Surgical Safety Checklist to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality in a Global Population." *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 360, no. 5, Jan. 2009, pp. 491–99, <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmsa0810119>.

surgical operations making it clear that there is a need for stricter measures and guidelines regarding surgical procedures.

Possible solutions

Establishing an international legal framework for Medical Tourism

A new global framework can be the underlying principle for other regulations to be imposed. This can be established through the collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the General Assembly's 6th committee (GA6 - Legal). This legal framework will include laws such as accreditation requirements as well as post treatment care obligations. Member states will need to sign and ratify this document. Once countries ratify this, they will be obliged to integrate these laws into their national health legislation.

Creating regional information centres in popular areas for health tourism

With the collaboration of WHO and other NGOs like International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) there will be the creation of regional information centres in areas that receive a high amount of medical tourists. These centres will be primarily responsible for raising awareness in incoming patients. Individuals will be able to receive sufficient information regarding the local accredited hospitals that are verified to perform surgeries as well as give some general information and suggestions regarding the post treatment care and the procedure patients should follow.

Additionally, these centres could send reports to the World Health Organization mentioning statistics regarding the amount of people visiting the area for medical purposes etc.

Set up a cross-border healthcare validation and monitoring system

The existence of an international healthcare validation and monitoring system is one of the most efficient measures that can be proposed. By creating it, there will be the ability to accredit and validate institutions to offer medical services. This could happen with the collaboration of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) which will determine some criteria that institutions will have to fulfil so as to be validated. Additionally, these two organizations could establish a Universal Periodic Review like the Human Rights Council's so as to systematically review the situation of hospitals and the operations that are being done so as to examine and discuss what shall be done to resolve any potential issues.



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