

Information on DTC's for Patients of the Emergency Medical Department

Diagnosis Treatment Combination (DTC)

WHAT IS A DTC?

Every hospital is required to use DTC's in order to determine the total cost of a medical treatment.

DTC: A NEW CONCEPT IN HEALTHCARE

On January 1, 2005, a new financing system for hospitals was introduced. This system is based on the so-called 'Diagnosis Treatment Combination' (DTC). A DTC includes all the activities and actions performed by the hospital and medical specialist in response to the patient's need for care, from the first consultation or examination to the final checkup. A DTC gives better insight into treatments performed by hospitals and the cost of such treatments, so that healthcare insurers know exactly what they are paying for and can compare hospitals and specialisations.

THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE INSURERS

Health care insurers are obliged to offer quantity care (waiting lists) as well as quality care. For instance, a patient may complain to his insurer if he feels that the quality of the care that he received was insufficient. To determine whether the quality of patient care was sufficient, healthcare insurers need to have factual medical criteria at their disposal. For this reason, the diagnosis and treatment data should be known.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE INSURERS:

Better insight into cost and treatment

- Care becomes transparent, so that financing can be better adjusted to the actual expenses.
- This facilitates a comparison between hospitals and specialisations, enabling better negotiations about the cost of DTC.
- Registration of the care that was provided can be processed more quickly and efficiently.

Better capacity planning and quality measurement

- Healthcare insurers can provide better care for their patients, because they have more insight into the hospital's capacity (waiting lists)
- More insight into the quality of care (healthcare obligation of insurer).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

- You or your insurance company will pay for/reimburse the full amount of a DTC.
- This can include: care, treatment, materials, blood tests, X-rays etc. etc.
- Please bear in mind that the cost of a DTC at the Emergency Medical department is at least EUR 160. If your treatment involves more than one specialisation, this amount will be higher.
- Tourists and people without insurance always pay cash, unless they have an E111 form or a European Insurance Pass
- You can use your debit card at the Emergency Medical department, or pay with a VISA/Master Card credit card.

These rates were fixed by law, and the Slotervaart Hospital is obliged to charge them. The receptionist at the desk can give you a list of all DTC rates at the Emergency Medical department.

The government has meanwhile come to realise that it is more practical to use one single average rate. This will probably be introduced in the course of 2006.

The Emergency Medical department does **not** provide dental care. Should you require dental care, you can get information about this from the receptionist at the desk.

In some cases, the 'Kruispost'¹ offers medical care for tourists and people without insurance. The address of the Kruispost can be obtained from the desk of the Emergency Medical Department.