ERN-LUNG CROSS-BORDER REFERRAL OPERATIONAL

The ERN-LUNG Network Coordination Team along with the Cross-border care Functional Committee have discussed the algorithm for cross-border referral to be step three of three levels of cross-border services. This step-wise approach helps reduce the number of cross-border referrals to the absolute minimum, because all problems which can be solved by another approach (let the knowledge travel instead of the patient) can be excluded from travelling from one Member State to the other unless this is really necessary.

For a patient, where cross-border referral is being considered by a member of ERN-LUNG, the following prerequisite sequential questions have to be answered with YES:

1. Has the patient’s problem been addressed within the national part of EXABO (Online Expert Advise System)? If NO, this has to be done.
2. Has the patient’s problem been discussed during a cross-border teleconsultation (CPMS)? If NO, this has to be done.
3. Has the Panel of Experts of ERN-LUNG during the tele-consultation or afterwards recommended cross-border referral to a specific center of expertise? If NO, this has to be done.
4. Has the National Contact Point of the country of residence of the patient been contacted? If NO, this has to be done.

Only after having a clear YES for all four consecutive questions, the leading physician caring for the patient is endorsed by ERN-LUNG to state that the patient needs cross-border referral. It is absolutely clear that no patient will be kept from travelling to another Member State to seek medical services there, but ERN-LUNG will not support such requests unless they fulfill the above-mentioned conditions.

During the ERN-LUNG board meeting (March 13-14, 2019) the network members voted to accept the patient pathway described above.
Patient with a known RD
Specific question / problem

Question is forwarded to ERN-LUNG Medical Expert via EXABO for solution

Satisfying solution (if not -> send to Level II)

Cross Border Online Consultation via CPMS for solution

Satisfying solution (if not -> send to Level III)

Cross Border Referral of patient?

All questions have been answered with YES:
1. Discussed in EXABO?
2. Discussed via CPMS?
3. NCP contacted?
4. Panel recommends cross-border referral?

Face-to-face consultation & special care in specific ERN-HCP / Out-patient facility

Only in case

RD, rare disease; EXABO, EXpert Advisory BOard; CPMS, Clinical Patient Management System; NCP, National Contact Point