

CLOSURE PROJECT SEMINAR**PROJECT PRESENTATION:****“AN UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PATIENT CO-PAYMENTS IN ROMANIA”**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Health care financing is considered a milestone component for the Romanian health system reform. While public funds spent in health care do not exceed 4% of GDP, informal patient payments are widely spread at all health care levels especially in public hospitals. Therefore, certain measures are required in the social health insurance and public health system in order to limit the phenomenon and to control the use of several medical services. A World Bank study indicated that informal patient payments in 2004 totaled over 300 million Euro, representing 41% of total direct payments and representing a financial burden to the population. Another study on family budgets revealed in 2008 that 60% of hospital patients declared unofficial payments (source:MoH,GDno.303/2011). Preliminary results of project ASSPRO CEE 2007 confirmed this level.

Although patients need to pay for different services in public health facilities, there is no co-payment system legally implemented yet. Since 2009, health officials announced several times the introduction of co-payments in the health care system, the subject being approached within a special commission assembled at the MoH, but the project law was postponed and passed by the Senate just recently (March 2011). Certain provisions for co-payments are stipulated in the Strategy for hospital rationalization approved by the Government Decision no.303/23.03.2011, under the objective of remodeling the supply of medical services. As studies indicate, the Romanian population disagrees with and health professionals are skeptical toward co-payments, especially within the current economic context.

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