



Rare Diseases Denmark

What can patients expect from European Reference Networks? Why is it important for patients to be involved?

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Or:
***What's in it for me -
as patient/family with a rare
disease?***



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European Reference Networks for rare diseases (ERN)

- ” A framework for healthcare pathways for RD-patients through a high level of integrated expertise stepwise approach”
- ” CE collaborate with patient organisations to bring in the patient perspective”

(Addendum to EUCERD Recommendations on Rare Diseases European Reference Networks)



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European Reference Networks

My son Michael and
people with Osteogenesis
Imperfecta(OI)
as a case-story

- *Yesterday (before google)*
- *Today (with google)*
- *Tomorrow (beyond google)*





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The Goal:
RD Patients
Healthcare Pathways
through integrated expertise



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Patients Healthcare Pathways

Yesterday:

- A small number of specialists in different locations
- Information through the patient organisation (DFOI) and "rumours"
- Referrals hard to get
- The specialist's networks (US.)
- The role of the patient organisations (DFOI, OI Norden, OIFE): facilitating and funding seminars, conferences, networks, individual specialists, consultations for patients (Denmark, Germany, Italy.)



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Patients Healthcare Pathways Today:

- National Centres of expertise and Healthcare Pathways for patients established – still work to be done
- National Strategy for Rare Diseases and revision of the general national plan for highly specialised healthcare and pathways
- The role of patient organisations still important
- National procedure for CoE and ERN not established yet.



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Patients Healthcare Pathways Tomorrow:



- National centres have become part of ERNs
- Centres or experts from DK in every ERN
- Patients will benefit from the best expertise through national centres and specialists connected to ERN
- Cross-border(physically)in exeptional cases through the National Board of Health
- The role of patientsorganisations as facilitators still very important



Healthcare pathways for RD patients- integrated expertise

- Conclusion:
 - ✓ From coincidens and luck to structure and order
 - ✓ From benefit for the strong to benefit for everyone
 - ✓ A boost for the level of expertise and development in Europa
 - ✓ Reducing inequality in healthcare for rare disease patients in Europe
 - ✓ ERNs regarded as options, not threats.



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RD Patients Healthcare pathways through integrated expertise

To Do list

- 1. Get hold of the person(s) / authorities representing your country in the proces around CoE and ERN and how to get ready**
- 2. Bring up the question in every fora/committee you have**
- 3. Get hold of your centres, experts, specialists to discuss the options and how to get ready**
- 4. Discuss with relevant people how to prepare for the coming call**
- 5. Liase with your contacts in your european associatiens on strategies to encourage your experts to take action**



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Thank you for your attention

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