

ANEC comments on CEN Workshop Agreement on quality criteria for health checks

ANEC welcomes the work done within CEN/Workshop 68 on the development of a CEN Workshop Agreement on basic quality criteria for health checks.

We find the current draft suitably includes the expectations ANEC expressed for the CWA in February 2012 ([Main consumer expectations from CEN Workshop Agreement on quality criteria for health checks](#), ANEC-SERV-2012-G-005).

Some additional comments are made below with regards to the distortion health checks can cause in the health care system.

ANEC finds the draft CWA developed in CEN/Workshop 68 is a clear and coherent text and provides good recommendations with a view to the consumers' needs.

We welcome the way the draft has considered ANEC input especially regarding informed consent and inclusion of the consumer perspective. We believe the informed consent tool in particular could be very useful.

We have some further suggestions for improvement and clarification regarding cost-effectiveness of the service under discussion:

- A screening programme or facility can cause distortion on the delivery of health care to other users of that system. National priorities may be overruled and individuals may use resources that would be more advantageously employed elsewhere. It is found that after screening full body CT scanning for e.g., patients often refer back to their primary care physician for further tests which show that the initial investigation was not of a sufficient technical standard or its interpretation was not to a high enough standard to establish the presumptive finding.

→ As a possible solution we suggest that the health check services providers could commit to any further investigations required to establish a diagnosis as part of the contract with the client, for those costs not to be a burden to the national health care system at the expense of more disadvantaged consumers.

ANEC is overall satisfied with the current draft and we express the hope that this CWA can be used widely by health check providers and that it may soon become the basis for a European standard, in order to increase its positive impact.

Moreover, we share the CWA suggestion that it may assist policy makers when looking into current regulatory gaps in this area and possibly in developing relevant policy instruments, in the absence of which the service will continue to be provided in different ways with limited control.

END.

ANEC in Brief

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, representing and defending consumer interests in the development of technical standards, in conformity assessment to standards, and in the creation or revision of legislation on products and services. Its members represent national consumer associations in 32 countries. ANEC receives financial support from the European Commission and the EFTA Secretariat. ANEC has signed the EU Transparency Register (507800799-30).

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