Swiss healthcare system witnesses decline in European health consumer ranking

Brussels, 13th November 2008

Switzerland has the 7th most consumer friendly healthcare system, according to the annual Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) launched today in Brussels. This is three steps down from last year’s 4th position and also a poorer performance than the 5th rank in 2006. The Netherlands lead the 31 country ranking with a score of 839 points, followed by Denmark (Diabetes Index winner in 2008), Austria (EHCI winner in 2007), Luxemburg and Sweden.

In six categories, covering 34 performance indicators, Switzerland scores 712 points out of a potential 1,000. Switzerland was ranked fourth in the Euro Heart Index 2008.

“Overall, the poor availability of healthcare outcomes data in an otherwise very well organised country is disappointing,” comments Dr. Arne Björnberg, Research Director for the Euro Health Consumer Index.

What more could be done in Switzerland?

“Switzerland has a problem with mammography coverage, which is usually attributed to Eastern European states. The problem might be at the level of information rather than availability; the opportunity to have this type of service is probably not sufficiently known or reminded, which allows us to draw the Swiss attention on the information issue,” says the president of the Health Consumer Powerhouse, Mr. Johan Hjertqvist, when analysing the Index outcomes for Switzerland.

About the Index

The Euro Health Consumer Index is the annual ranking of national European healthcare systems across six key areas: Patient rights and information, e-Health, Waiting time for treatment, Outcomes, Range and reach of services provided and Pharmaceuticals. 31 countries are covered. First published in 2005, the EHCI is sourced from public statistics and independent research. The producer is the analysis and information organisation Health Consumer Powerhouse. As with all other HCP Indexes, the organisation takes a consumer-centred position.

For more information and the explanatory report: http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/archives/cat_media_room.html

About the Health Consumer Powerhouse: www.healthpowerhouse.com

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