

PRESS RELEASE

TURKISH CARE CAPACITY FOR DUTCH QUEUE



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The Dutch healthcare sector has run into capacity limits during the coronacrisis, as evidenced by the flooding of the IC departments. Also, the planned care has been partly postponed. The Dutch Healthcare Authority announced at the end of August that since March 2020, some 340,000 to 380,000 fewer operations had been performed than expected.

A 'transfer' of Dutch patients to Turkish hospitals is currently being investigated by the Chamber of Commerce Netherlands–Turkey foundation (CCNT). Compared to other countries, Turkey is less affected by capacity problems in hospitals. Turkey's Deputy Minister of Healthcare, Sebahattin Aydın, stressed (November 2021) that Turkey also welcomes patients from abroad.

Thanks to investments over the past 20 years, Turkey has more IC capacity. With 46 IC beds per 100K inhabitants, Turkey leads the list where Germany (29), France (11.6), the UK (6.6), Italy (12) and the Netherlands (6) score worse. In corona year 2020, 17 new mega hospitals were opened with an extra bed capacity of 12,350.

Internationally, Turkey is getting attention. World Bank country director Turkey, A. Tano Kouame: "Turkey's success in health is celebrated around the world" (24-5-2020). An inauguration ceremony of Europe's largest hospital was attended (2019) by ambassadors and representatives of foreign missions from 45 countries.

Turkey has 42 JCI (*Joint Commission International*) accredited health institutions. According to the standards of the HIMMS (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society), Turkey has seven 'smart hospitals'. In European countries, that number is five. About 40% of Turkish medical staff are trained in countries such as the US and the UK, while hospitals are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

Dutch people of Turkish origin have been going to Turkey for years, when they need medical specialist help. The correct perception of this target group is that they are treated well in Turkey and receive good care while the treatment costs are much lower than those in the Netherlands.

The CCNT has created the 'Zorgproject NL-TR' (Healthcare project NL-TR), aimed at, among others, gaining insight into the opportunities and possibilities regarding enhanced care cooperation between the Netherlands and Turkey. Interested parties for exploratory discussions and welcoming a healthcare delegation in Turkey can contact CCNT.