

Survey of French Physicians Reveals Concerns with Government Intrusion in Health Care Decisions

In a recent survey, physicians in France, particularly those who treat complex conditions like cancer, HIV, and diabetes, report that they are frustrated by the length of time it takes for new products to become available compared to the United States. Findings from this survey demonstrate why the U.S. government should not import other countries' health care policies. Four topics were considered in the survey: patient access to treatments, government influence in the practice of medicine, physicians' flexibility and autonomy, and investment in research and development.

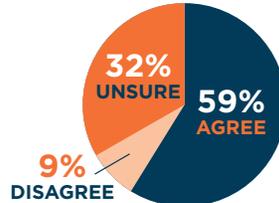
France's government-run statutory health insurance often prioritizes managing costs over providing patients with access to the best possible health care and treatment options.

Patient Access to Innovative Medicines

Limited access to innovative treatments in France leaves many patients with fewer options and risk of poorer health outcomes. For example, between 2010 and 2014, a French patient with brain cancer was 34% less likely to survive five years after diagnosis than a patient in the United States.¹

Just 10%

of French physicians say patients can access innovative medicines without restrictions.



A majority of French physicians agree their patients would benefit from a shorter period of time between European medicine approval and availability and reimbursement in France.

"I understand that there's a need to save money but it's not by reducing clinical staff or by limiting access to treatments."

-French Oncologist

"[JAK inhibitors, used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune disorders] were already on the American market for 5 years and in other European countries 2 years before us. I was pretty frustrated because treatments with JAK inhibitors have proven to be very efficient."

-French Rheumatologist

Sources:

1. 27.2% in France vs. 36.5% in U.S.; C Allemani, et al. "Global surveillance of trends in cancer survival 2000-14 (CONCORD-3): analysis of individual records for 37 513 025 patients diagnosed with one of 18 cancers from 322 population-based registries in 71 countries," The Lancet, 2018. 391(10125): 1023-1075.

Physician Flexibility and Autonomy

French physicians are frustrated with the unavailability of new, innovative medicines, which prevents them from providing the treatment they believe is best for their patients.



Two thirds of French physicians say guidelines and regulations sometimes, often, or always prevent them from providing the best treatment.

68%

of French physicians have been unable to prescribe the best clinical option within the last year.

“We’re considered to be fairly well advanced in France but sometimes the time we have to wait for some treatments is ludicrous... I think that if some politicians suffered from diabetes themselves, things would go a lot quicker... I keep seeing new technologies released in the United States that we still don’t see here in France because the waiting time is too long.”

-French Endocrinologist

The Influence of Government in the Practice of Medicine

Significant government bureaucracy interferes with French physicians’ ability to provide the best care for their patients.

85%

The majority of French physicians say the government has equal or greater influence over health care decisions compared to providers and patients.

0%

No physicians say health care decisions are completely directed by providers and patients.



Two thirds of French physicians say the government focuses too much on cost control, at the expense of patient access.

“In the United States, it takes less time for treatments to be approved and available on the market... It’s too long here, there’s too many steps to take, with too many commissions and bureaucracy involved.” -French Hematologist

Research and Development (R&D)

81%

of French physicians believe their government should increase investment in medicine R&D.



3 out of 4 French physicians say their country trails the United States in biomedical R&D.

84%

of French physicians believe the majority of health care research and development is occurring in the U.S.

Survey Methodology: Health Strategies Insights by EVERSANA conducted a 20-minute online survey with 100 French physicians, fielded 11/11-12/03/2019, and 30-minute telephone interviews with 6 French physicians between 9/19-9/20/2019. Survey targeted clinical specialists (hematologists, oncologists, immunologists, neurologists, rheumatologists, and endocrinologists) with at least 5 years of clinical practice in France, who treat a minimum number of patients per month based on their specialty, are affiliated with an academic institution or are involved in clinical trials as part of their practice, are up-to-date on the latest advances in their specialty, and are knowledgeable about the French process for assessing cost effectiveness, pricing and reimbursement process for new drugs.