

No. 16508

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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
and  
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Agreement on co-operation in the field of medicine and  
public health. Signed at Berlin on 14 April 1977**

*Authentic texts: English and German.*

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on  
16 March 1978.*

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**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE  
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD  
et  
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE**

**Accord concernant la coopération dans le domaine de la  
médecine et de la santé publique. Signé à Berlin le  
14 avril 1977**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et allemand.*

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le  
16 mars 1978.*

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the German Democratic Republic,

Being resolved to take account of and to apply the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;<sup>2</sup>

Desirous of developing co-operation in the field of medicine and public health in the interests of maintaining, promoting and improving public health in both States and of contributing thereby to the understanding and the strengthening of confidence between both peoples;

Anxious to provide the nationals of each of the two States during their temporary stay in the other State with the necessary medical assistance and treatment;

In conformity with the principles and aims of the World Health Organisation (WHO);  
Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* (1) In relation to the United Kingdom, the territory to which this Agreement shall apply shall be England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In relation to the German Democratic Republic, the territory referred to shall be the German Democratic Republic.

(2) For the purpose of this Agreement the following shall be “nationals”

- (a) in relation to the United Kingdom, all British subjects and British protected persons who are recognised by Her Britannic Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom as their nationals provided in each case they are ordinarily resident in the territory of the United Kingdom to which this Agreement applies;
- (b) in relation to the German Democratic Republic, all persons who in accordance with the laws of the German Democratic Republic are citizens of the German Democratic Republic.

*Article 2.* In order to increase the effectiveness of the protection of health in the territories of both States the Contracting Parties shall agree, on the basis of reciprocity and having regard to mutual interests, particularly the prevention of and fight against communicable and other diseases, on the development and furtherance of co-operation between health authorities, establishments and organisations. The fields to be selected for this co-operation shall be determined jointly by the Contracting Parties from within the planning, organisation, provision and management of health care and of public health.

*Article 3.* All exchanges and other forms of co-operation under this Agreement shall take place in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the two States.

*Article 4.* (1) In the case of a national of the United Kingdom or a national of the German Democratic Republic needing immediate medical treatment during his temporary stay in or transit across the territory of the other State, the Contracting Party concerned shall, on production of a valid passport, afford, in accordance with the Health Service legislation in force in the State concerning during the period of validity of the present

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 14 April 1977, the date of signature, in accordance with article 9 (3).

<sup>2</sup> *International Legal Materials*, vol. 14, 1975, p. 1292.

Agreement and on the same terms as nationals of that State, the necessary out-patient or in-patient medical assistance, including the necessary medicines. The Contracting Party concerned shall take upon itself all such costs arising therefrom within its own State apart from charges normally paid by nationals of that State, or by persons or bodies pursuant to legislation of that State in respect of the treatment of road traffic injuries to such nationals.

(2) The provision of this Article shall not apply to a national of the one State who goes to the other for the express purpose of benefiting from medical treatment under this Agreement.

*Article 5.* In exceptional cases each Contracting Party shall use its best endeavours at the request conveyed by the other Party to facilitate acceptance of a patient at a hospital or clinic for treatment at his own expense.

*Article 6.* The Contracting Parties shall co-operate and consult together in carrying out the long-term programmes of the World Health Organisation and in the carrying out of their main European region tasks.

*Article 7.* (1) The Department of Health and Social Security of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Public Health of the German Democratic Republic shall be responsible for the proper execution of this Agreement.

(2) The Department and the Ministry shall, in the implementation of this Agreement, conclude—in each case, as a rule, for two years—specific plans of co-operation which shall set out and specify the individual fields (for example cardiovascular diseases, research in nursing, oncology), forms, and methods and the financing of co-operation.

*Article 8.* Any disagreement relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultations between the Contracting Parties.

*Article 9.* (1) This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. It may be terminated subject to six months' notice by either Party.

(2) Amendments and additions to this Agreement shall require agreement in writing between the Contracting Parties.

(3) This Agreement shall enter into force on the day of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Berlin this 14 April 1977 in the English and German languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

GORONWY-ROBERTS  
of Caernarvon and Ogwen

For the Government  
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

KURT NIER

For the Government  
of the German Democratic Republic