

Beware of the PURPLE CROCODILE



Absurd certificates drain GPs' medical time and patients' access to care across Europe

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OUR PROBLEM

GPs across Europe are buried under **certificates of little or no medical value**, demanded by **insurers, employers, schools, sports clubs, public bodies, etc.** :

- Doctors made controllers, not caregivers
- No legal basis for many requests
- Every signature is **time taken from care**

Lost medical time = lost access to care.

Some European GPs were surveyed for the **European Atlas of General Practice** (on sale for €20 at the congress)

IDENTIFY → RESPOND → ACT

IDENTIFY

No medical value or legal basis

RESPOND

Decline with legal arguments

ACT

Report & challenge
Act locally / nationally



WHAT EACH COUNTRY REPORTS (examples)

Country	Self-cert sick leave	Country	Self-cert	Country	Self-cert
Albania	No	Georgia	No	Portugal	Yes — 3 d/×2
Armenia	No	Germany	Yes — ~3 d	Russia	No
Austria	No	Ireland	No	Serbia	No
Azerbaijan	No	Italy	No	Slovakia	No
Belarus	No	Kazakhstan	No	Spain	No
Belgium	Yes — 1 d/×2	Kosovo	Yes — ≤3 d	Sweden	Yes — 7 d
Bosnia & H.	No	Moldova	No	Switzerland	Yes — 3 d
Czechia	No	Montenegro	No	Tajikistan	Yes — 3 d
Denmark	Yes — no limit	Netherlands	Yes — no cert.	Türkiye	No
Estonia	No	N. Macedonia	No	Ukraine	No
Finland	Yes — 1-3 d	Norway	Yes — 3 d/×4	UK	Yes — 7 d
France	No	Poland	No		

Low-value certificates reported
Real examples and obviously non-exhaustive

School lift/locker; home-shower adaptation; insurer & nursing-bed renewals
 “Not allergic to milk” for a dairy-farm school trip; school readmission
 Proof-of-life for pensioners; firearms; bank loan; court; adoption
 Fitness to use a swimming pool; to attend a children's summer camp
 Aqua-aerobics, marathons; music school; lay-judge; foster care
 Special diet at work; how long a patient sat an exam
 Back to school/kindergarten after a minor illness
 Day-1 sick note for apprentices; school-absence note for a flu
...
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MOVEMENTS BY COUNTRY

- certificats-absurdes.fr (CMG, 2023)
- certificats-absurdes.be
- SSMIG “Paper Tiger” survey
- “Gym Law” and “Short-Term Certif” / “closed list”
- cooperation between doctors' org and municipalities
- APMGF advocacy · All the main Union(s) of GPs (SNAMI, FIMMG, SMI) are fighting · movement...

OUR TOOLS & RESULTS

- certificats-absurdes.fr & .be
- Free posters + reusable stamps.
 - Public registry of reported certificates
 - 100s of institutions & insurers challenged (no legal basis)
 - Annual Purple September campaign in France
 - Contacts with institutions

A “wasted medical-time” yardstick

In France (50 000 liberal GP), 1 GP ≈ **5 000 consultations/year = 1 “doctor-year”**.
A useless one asked of **1 000 000 people = 200 doctor-years lost/year**.
→ Score every rule in **medical-years freed or wasted**.



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