

## **Abstract**

The subject-matter of this master thesis is cross-border healthcare in the European Union. It describes the history and development, but focuses mainly on the current legal framework represented by Regulation No 883/2004, and mainly Directive 2011/24 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border health care.

The aim of the master thesis is to thoroughly analyse the current legal framework with a focus on patients' rights, to examine the impact of the Directive, to explain an issue of overlap between the Directive and Regulation, and to evaluate the transposition of the Directive in the Czech Republic. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to examine the topic with respect to the historical and political development of the European Union and to the case law of the European Court of Justice.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. First of which concerns European Union competences in health law, explaining the history of incorporating health law provisions into the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as it is called today. This historical development is important for understanding the issue of cross-border healthcare.

The second chapter is mainly focused on the important case law of the ECJ concerning patients' rights. Although initially I will discuss the development in providing cross-border health care, specifically the relation between cross-border health care and the internal market, and the change brought by Regulation on coordination of social security systems.

In the third part of the thesis, Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare is discussed. This chapter explains development and reasons for adopting the Directive and analyses specific articles of the Directive and their impact.

The final chapter deals with cross-border healthcare in the Czech Republic, mainly with the implementation of the Directive into the Czech legal system, information to patients, and the reimbursement system.

The conclusion contains the summary of the thesis. The adoption of the Directive represents a significant change in cross-border healthcare. Despite some shortcomings, the Directive has brought many advantages for patients from all EU member states and it can be seen as a positive step in providing cross-border healthcare.