

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN PATIENT CARE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates on the main standards that safeguard human rights in patient care within Europe, which include those established and interpreted by the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (COE), the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), and the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR). As in the preceding chapter on the international framework, this chapter is divided into three sections. The first section describes key sources within the region governing human rights in patient care. The second section examines patients' rights and includes subsections that discuss the standards and relevant interpretations connected to a particular right within three particularly common health-related contexts: mental health, infectious diseases, and sexual and reproductive rights. These subsections provide examples of potential violations based on case law. It is worth underscoring here that these three contexts are merely used as examples and that human rights violations (and therefore, the application of human rights standards) can occur beyond this limited set of patient care-related contexts. The third section focuses on the rights of health care providers and discusses the standards and relevant interpretations of each particular provider right that stem from relevant case law.