

ARTICLE 23

Exchange of Information and Mutual Assistance

1. The competent authorities and institutions responsible for the application of this Agreement:
 - (a) shall, to the extent permitted by the legislation which they administer, communicate to each other any information necessary for the application of this Agreement;
 - (b) shall lend their good offices and furnish assistance to one another with regard to the determination or payment of any benefit under this Agreement; and
 - (c) shall communicate to each other, as soon as possible, all information about the measures taken by them for the application of this Agreement or about changes in their respective legislation insofar as these changes affect the application of the provisions of this Agreement.
2. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, and subject to any conditions which may be set out in an administrative arrangement concluded pursuant to Article 22, the assistance referred to in subparagraph 1(b) shall be provided free of charge.
3. Unless disclosure is required under the laws of a Party, any information about an individual which is transmitted in accordance with this Agreement to that Party by the other Party is confidential and shall be used only for purposes of implementing this Agreement and the legislation to which this Agreement applies.

ARTICLE 24

Medical Examinations

1. If a competent institution of a Party requests the competent institution of the other Party to conduct a medical examination of an applicant or beneficiary who resides in the territory of the latter Party, such examination shall be arranged or carried out by an institution of the latter Party.
2. The costs related to a medical examination, whether it is performed by a specialist or a general practitioner, shall be borne by the institution which has requested the examination.
3. The conditions under which the provisions of the preceding paragraphs will be applied shall be set out in an administrative arrangement concluded pursuant to Article 22.