

Lesson 9 Activities

9.1

read the text below and choose the best answer

1. The text is from...

A. a tour guide.

B. a magazine.

C. a medical leaflet.

2. That text was written in order to...

A. advertise holidays.

B. give advice about keeping fit.

C. inform readers of a recent trend.

Medical Tourism

Only a few years ago, going abroad for medical treatment was mostly for emergency treatment by expensive specialists. Now, cheaper travel and the falling cost of healthcare in some countries have made medical tourism affordable for thousands of people who may not have thought about it seriously in the past. The trend is growing as a result of the increase in demand for cosmetic surgery and the success of some countries in marketing themselves to medical tourists as inexpensive places for treatment. Whether it is cosmetic surgery in Poland or dentistry in India, medical tourism is becoming more and more popular. A comparison between the cost of treatment in Canada or the UK and the cost in other countries sends thousands of people to foreign hospitals and clinics. The long waiting lists in their own country is another reason why people look elsewhere for treatment.

Maria Paphitis, a 27-year old Canadian publishing assistant who is working in London, began visiting Greece for dental work four years ago. "I was told I had to wait weeks for a visit to a specialist in London and my teeth were aching," she says. "I flew into Greece and was seen by a dentist the same afternoon. And, while the cost of a dental visit in London would have been 110 euro, I was able to have an X-ray and a filling in Greece for a total of 100 euro. It is cheaper, easier and more reliable than going to a dentist in the UK. So, I've been back three times since. I have family in Greece and it's an easy thing to do. My boyfriend needs a bridge and he's going to get it done in Greece as well. I find it works very well for me."

Of course, the cost for a medical tourism trip to Greece has to be taken into account. But as the pressure in domestic health systems in many European countries increases with the ageing population, medical tourism looks like it is going to be a popular choice for more and more people in the future.

9.2

read the text again and choose the best answers

1. What is 'medical tourism'? It is when

A. doctors go to medical conferences abroad.

B. people go abroad for health reasons.

C. people visit another country and fall ill.

2. Why are more people going abroad for medical treatment? Because

A. the doctors are better.

B. they have cleaner hospitals.

C. it costs less.

3. Why did Maria Paphitis choose to go to Greece for treatment?

A. She didn't mind waiting.

B. She was in pain.

C. She often goes there for holidays.

4. What is Maria's opinion of Greek dentists? They are

A. trustworthy.

B. welcoming.

C. patient.