



ОТВОРЕНО
Центар за регионални истражувања и соработка

 OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE
Public Health Program

КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА

Јавно здравје во Македонија и Ромите

Како досега и понатаму?

22 јануари 2009, почеток 10.00 часот, хотел Холидеј Ин, сала Милениум 1

THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

Value determined by constitution:

Every citizen shall be guaranteed the right to healthcare.

The citizen has the right and responsibility to maintain and promote his/her health and the health of the others

(Article 39, Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia)

Legal regulative in the area of health

- Law on Healthcare Protection
 - Law on Health Insurance
 - Law on Protection of Patients' Rights
 - Programs for preventive and curative healthcare protection (adopted by the Government of RoM)
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Law on Healthcare Protection

Mandatory health insurance for all citizens of Macedonia in order to use healthcare services and financial reimbursements based on the principles of inclusion, solidarity, equality and effective use of means under conditions determined by this law.

Law on Health Insurance –Persons insured under mandatory insurance

- 1) Persons in working relation;
 - 2) Persons chosen or elected at service, public and other positions;
 - 3) Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia in working relation with foreign employers or in service of international missions and organizations, foreign diplomatic services and consular offices or working for foreign citizens at the territory of RM;
 - 4) Persons employed in private sector;
 - 5) Persons working in agriculture as primary employment;
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Law on Health Insurance – Persons insured under mandatory insurance

- 6) Users of pension or financial benefits based on pension and disability insurance as well as citizens of the Republic of Macedonia that receive pension or disability pension from foreign insurance while residing on the territory of Macedonia;
 - 7) Persons temporarily unemployed while receiving financial aid and unemployed persons registered at the Employment Agency if they do not have other basis for insurance;
 - 8) Participants in the Second World War and families of citizens of Macedonia that died in wars prior to the dissolution of SFRY;
 - 9) Welfare users, persons placed at social protection facilities and persons placed in other families in accordance to the regulations for social protection;
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Law on Health Insurance – Persons insured under mandatory insurance

- 10) Citizens of Macedonia that are in working relation abroad and used to reside on the territory of Macedonia prior to their work abroad – for the family members that live in Macedonia;
 - 11) Foreign citizens or persons without citizenship employed in foreign companies temporarily working on the territory of Macedonia, at the time of their studies or professional specialization on the territory of Macedonia or in service of international organizations, foreign consular or other services or working for foreign citizens with diplomatic immunity, if not determined otherwise by an agreement;
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Law on Health Insurance – Persons insured under mandatory insurance

- 12) Family members of insured person at duty in the Army of the Republic of Macedonia (ARM) during their employment, regulated by special regulations;
 - 13) Persons serving sentence in prison, persons in detention if they are not insured otherwise and minors placed in correction facility or institution;
 - 14) Persons working in religious communities and persons within religious orders.
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Law on Health Insurance – Persons insured under mandatory insurance

- Based on mandatory healthcare insurance of the person insured there is also insurance for members of his/her family if they are not insured.
 - Members of family are: spouse, children born in wedlock or out of wedlock, children from the spouse, adopted children and children hosted in family.
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Law on Health Insurance – Persons insured under mandatory insurance

- Children of insured person are also insured:
 - 1) Up to age of 18 years and after that only if they are full time students until the age of 26;
 - 2) When they are studying part-time, if due to illness they cannot be full-time students;
 - 3) If they are or they become incapacitated to live alone and work in terms of regulations of pension and disability insurance and social protection, if the insured person needs to take care of them – until the duration of the disability.
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Law on Healthcare Protection

With mandatory health insurance the insured persons have the right to basic package of healthcare services under conditions determined by this law, in case of:

- 1) Illness and injury outside the workplace and
 - 2) Injury at the workplace and occupational health issues.
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Healthcare Protection Programmes

All activities and healthcare services regulated by the Preventive and curative healthcare protection programmes are free and accessible to all persons in Macedonia, regardless of their health insurance status.

The programmes are prepared by MoH and financed from the state budget.

Healthcare Protection Programmes

- Program for mandatory immunization of the population of RoM
 - Program for examining, fighting and eliminating brucellosis among the population in RoM
 - Preventive measure program for fighting tuberculosis among the population in RoM
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Healthcare Protection Programmes

- Program for general medical examinations of pupils and students in RoM,
 - Program for protection of the population against AIDS in RoM,
 - Program for early detection and treatment of reproductive system illnesses of the women in RoM,
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Healthcare Protection Programmes

- Program for health protection of certain population groups and from certain illnesses for citizens that are not insured in RoM
 - Program for active health protection for mothers and children
 - Programs for early detection and treatment of reproductive system illnesses for the women in RoM
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Healthcare Protection Programmes

- Program for costs reimbursement for patients on dialysis treatment, medications for patients with transplant surgery, chemotherapy, insulin, growth hormone and treatment for hemophilia in RoM,
 - Program for healthcare protection for persons suffering from addictions in RoM,
 - Program for healthcare protection for persons suffering from mental illnesses in RoM,
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Most common problems with Roma in exercising their right to health insurance

- Persons born at home or outside of Macedonia and not registered in the book of births, without any document for personal identification (birth certificate, citizenship, identification card, etc);
 - Persons with ID card coming from another state or without documents cannot exercise their right to health insurance;
 - Foreign citizens living in partnership with Macedonian citizens cannot register their marriage without birth certificate and therefore cannot exercise their right to health insurance.
 - Persons without sufficient financial means to pay for necessary taxes in order to obtain documents.
 - Persons living in partnership with persons from another town cannot be registered in the Employment Agency and therefore cannot exercise their right to health insurance.
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Most common problems with Roma in exercising their right to health insurance

- Unemployed persons older than 62 years of age do not have the right to register in the Employment Agency. According to the law those persons need to make payment in the Insurance Fund in order to be granted the right to health insurance.
 - Persons that lost their right to health insurance in duration of 1 year due to irregular registration at the Employment Agency.
 - Pregnant women and women that gave birth without health insurance or foreign citizens are not informed about their rights for free healthcare protection according to the Program for active healthcare protection of mothers and children and Program for persons without health insurance.
 - Large number of Roma due to financial hardship are not able to pay medical fee and specialist examination as well as medications. This condition is especially important for the chronically ill persons that have a need for regular medical check-ups and continuous therapy.
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Most common problems with Roma in exercising their right to health insurance

- Insufficient knowledge about opportunities regulated by law in exercising their right to health insurance, especially for unemployed persons;
 - Inadequate implementation of the legal regulative by the Employment Agency: non-registration of persons with primary education, non-registration of spouse if one of the spouses is already insured through the Agency, etc.
 - Negative implications due to lack of knowledge about the rights and responsibilities coming from private health insurance.
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Most common problems with Roma in exercising their right to health insurance

- Inability to provide certificate of material condition since those persons live in shanty towns, have no property possession documents and are in no condition to provide such documents.
 - Low awareness of the Roma for the responsibility of regular registration at the Employment Agency, etc.
 - Inadequate treatment by the clerks in relevant institutions (Employment Agency, Public Revenue Office, Centers for Social Work, local services, etc) towards the Roma clients.
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Research, analysis and documents related to the health of Roma (ESE)

- Analysis of the conditions of healthcare insurance among Roma (2005),
 - Health, healthcare protection and the health influences in Roma population in RM (nation-wide research, 2008),
 - Strategic document for advancement of the condition for health insurance and healthcare protection of the Roma (2008).
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Health, healthcare protection and the health influences with Roma in Macedonia

- Key findings – Health insurance:
 - 10,4% are without healthcare insurance, while 31,5% said that there are periods when they did not have health insurance,
 - Reasons for not having health insurance: lack of documents (37%), lack of knowledge how to exercise their right (23,9%) and persons that were unregistered by the Employment Agency (39,1%)
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Health, healthcare protection and the health influences with Roma in Macedonia

- Key findings – Healthcare protection:
 - Insufficient healthcare protection throughout pregnancy (21% of the respondents did not have any medical check-up during their last pregnancy),
 - 22,9% of the respondents are not satisfied with the healthcare services they receive.
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Health, healthcare protection and the health influences with Roma in Macedonia

- Key finding – Health condition:
 - 37,4% of the respondents evaluate their health as bad,
 - 55,5% of the respondents have chronic health problem,
 - 40,3% have chronic health problem since they were 36 years of age,
 - Hypertension is the leading chronic health problem with the Roma,
 - 72,6% of the persons with chronic illness did not have the financial means to buy the necessary medications,
 - 71,7% of the respondents did not make any change towards healthier life habits.
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Health, healthcare protection and the health influences with Roma in Macedonia

- Key findings- Healthcare condition:
 - Negative factors influencing the health of Roma are: poverty, lack of health insurance, lack of healthcare awareness, inadequate healthcare services,
 - All socio-economic and health indicators taken in consideration in the research are considerably lower among the Roma women.
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