



Centrum Informacji dla Cudzoziemców w Powiecie Polickim



HEALTH CARE FOR FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN POLAND

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

In Poland, health care may be provided to:

- public (free of charge)
- private (paid)

Public healthcare: the persons entitled to it are those residing/staying on the territory of Poland and having health insurance with the National Health Fund (NFZ www.nfz.gov.pl).

Private health care: anyone who pays for a service, e.g. a medical consultation, examination, etc., is entitled to private health care. There are a large number of private practices and clinics on the market. The easiest way to find them is on the internet by typing in the relevant phrase. The website www.znanylekarz.pl is also good, where you can directly order an appointment with a doctor of a particular speciality.

The category of persons entitled to health insurance in Poland are:

1. persons employed on the basis of an employment contract or a civil law contract (so-called contract of mandate).
2. the spouse of an employed person - however, it is important to know that the insurance of the husband/wife is not carried out automatically. The accession of the spouse's insurance must be notified to your employer. If your spouse takes up employment, you must notify your employer so that there is no duplication of insurance contributions.
3. children of the employed person - any child up to the age of 18, as well as those between the ages of 18 and 24, provided that they are studying, are entitled to be insured with their parent. It is important to note that the desire to insure a child over 18 must be notified to the employer.

What health insurance provides:

- access to a "family doctor". In order to get such access, you have to go to the health centre of your choice. There, you will be issued a questionnaire/declaration of your choice of 'family' doctor (primary care), as well as a community nurse and, for women, you can declare your choice of community midwife;
- subsidised medicines (prescriptions for reimbursable medicines);
- provision of access to all diagnostic tests (on the basis of a referral issued by a doctor);



- the right to see specialists (on the basis of a referral issued by a primary care doctor);
- the possibility of receiving night and Christmas care;
- the possibility of receiving hospital care (including hospital emergency department - so-called SOR);

NOTE!

1. a certain group of patients has the right to receive free of charge treatment without a referral and these are: HIV-infected persons, tuberculosis patients, persons addicted to alcohol and/or narcotic drugs as well as psychotropic drugs - here especially in the scope of treatment and therapy of addictions.
2. in a life-threatening situation for a child, call the emergency services immediately by dialing 112.
3. it is important to know that every child who stays in Poland is subject to mandatory immunisation. This is not affected by the fact whether the child has insurance or not, as all vaccinations for children are free of charge.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS:

- Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Poland no earlier than 24 February 2022 and who have been assigned a PESEL number are entitled to free healthcare.
- It should be remembered that a citizen of Ukraine residing on the territory of the Republic of Poland under the Special Act, who, during his/her 18-month stay in Poland, leaves for a period exceeding 30 days, automatically loses the right to health care benefits under the aforementioned Act.

USEFUL LINKS

Patient Ombudsman - <http://www.bpp.gov.pl>

Patient's Charter of Rights - http://www.bpp.gov.pl/czesc_ogolna.html

ZUS guide "Social and health insurance for Poles employed abroad and foreigners working in Poland" – <https://www.zus.pl/documents/10182/167567/porad21.pdf/dd301159-e1e4-42ec-8106-929e86c330ba>



LEGAL REGULATIONS

Access to health care services for foreigners in Poland is regulated by the following legal acts:
Act of 27 August 2004 on health care services financed from public funds (Journal of Laws of 2008, No. 164, item 1027, as amended)

<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20081641027>

Act of 12 December 2013 on foreigners (Dz. U. of 2020, item 35.) -

<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=wdu20130001650>

Act of 15 April 2011 on medical activity (Journal of Laws of 2011, No. 112, item 654, as amended) -

<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=wdu20111120654>

Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of 22 December 2008.

on the means of subsistence that an alien entering the territory of the Republic of Poland should possess and documents confirming the ability to obtain such means (Dz. U. of 2008, No. 235, item 1611)

<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20082351611>

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas -

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:243:0001:0058:PL:PDF> .