ORGANISATION AND FUNDING OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN BULGARIA

Prof. Tatiana Ivanova, MD, Ph.D.
National Center of Public Health Protection, Sofia

www.ncphp.government.bg
Bulgaria

- Territory: 111 000 km²
- Population: 7 385 367
- Ethnic distribution:
  - Bulgarians: 83.0%
  - Turks: 9.0%
  - Roma: 3.0%
  - Others: 6.0%
The Republic of Bulgaria is situated in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe, bordered by Romania to the north, the Black Sea to the east, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the west, and Greece and Turkey to the south.
Economic development

- GDP (BGN)-70.47 billion leva (2010)
- GDP 36 billion euros (2010)
- GDP per capita: 4787 euros (2010)
- Health expenditure per capita: 269 USD (2009)
Population: 7.4 million (2009)
Birth rate: 10.7 per 1,000 population (2009)
Crude death rate: 14.2 per 1,000 population (2009)

Life expectancy: 73.43 years
Males at birth (2009): 69.52 years
Females at birth (2009): 76.34 years
• **Public health services** are organized by the Ministry of Health and its 28 Regional health inspectorates and are financed centrally.

• The public health network also includes:

  The National Centre for Radiobiology and Radiation Protection, the National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, the National Centre of Public Health Protection, National Center on Drug Abuse.
- Gatekeeper physician:
  General practitioners control access to specialized out-patient and hospital care
☑ Outpatient care is provided by single and group practices, medical and dental centres and independent medical diagnostic centres;
☑ Physicians or centres contract with the NHIF in order to participate in statutory provision;
☑ Any providers that do not sign contracts can provide private services on a fee-for-service basis;
☑ Inpatient care is provided by hospitals.
Types of Hospitals

ORGANISATION AND FUNDING OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN BULGARIA

Categories
- General (multiprofile hospitals for active treatment);
- Specialized hospitals;
- Hospitals for long term care and rehabilitation;
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Dispanceries

Public/ Private

Coexistence of public and private hospitals.

Categories
- General (multiprofile hospitals for active treatment);
- Specialized hospitals;
- Hospitals for long term care and rehabilitation;
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Dispanceries
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of beds</td>
<td>47,995 (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beds per 1,000</td>
<td>6.35‰ (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed occupancy rate</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stay</td>
<td>6.2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of acute care hospital</td>
<td>258 discharges per 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>admissions</td>
<td>population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting list</td>
<td>Inessential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of hospitals:
306 in total (2009)
299 in total (2007)

- 122 multiprofile hospitals for active treatment – with 27 779 beds
- 69 specialized hospitals for active treatment – with 8105 beds
- 12 psychiatric care hospitals with 2 685 beds
- 40 hospitals for long term care – with 4489 beds
- 46 Disperseries with 4135 beds
The management of the hospitals depends on who is the owner.

The hospitals that are owned 100% by the MoH are Sole Joint Ventures. (managed by a General Assembly with the participation of the minister of health and a Board of Directors).

The regional hospitals are Joint Ventures (as 51% are owned by the regional authorities and 49% are owned by the municipal authorities within the region, managed by a Board of Directors as a representative of the regional authority is one of its members).

Municipal hospitals are Sole Legal Entieties and are 100% owned by the municipalities.
Public financing (social contributions and/or taxes)
Currently, the health system in Bulgaria is financed through:

- Mandatory health insurance contributions to the amount of 8% of income.
- Central and local budgets cover the unemployed, poor, pensioners, students, individual in the military, and civil servants;
Coverage of the population - the social health insurance of the Republic of Bulgaria, administrated by the National Health Insurance Fund, does not envisage exclusion from the obligatory insurance system.

However, 12.67% of the population does not have health insurance rights due to unpaid contributions.

1.81% of the population has contracted voluntary private health insurance.
Human Resources

ORGANISATION AND FUNDING OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN BULGARIA

- Total number of the physicians – 27,998 (2009), 37 per 10,000
- The number of GPs – 5,210, 6.5 per 10,000
- Physicians on dental medicine – 6,493, 8.6 per 10,000
- Nurses and others – 48,099, 63.6 per 10,000

There are opportunities for hospital physicians to work in out-patient settings, as well, and this fact may misrepresent the data.
Status and compensation of physicians, working in hospitals

• Out-patient physicians can generate revenues and then – income.

• Hospital physicians are salaried employees.

The remuneration of hospital staff cannot be more than 40% of the revenues from the clinical pathways according to the contract with the NHIF.
Out-patient health care receives per capita + fee-for-service from the NHIF. (In addition, every patient pays 1% of minimal salary for every visit to a GP or an out-patient specialist).

All public hospitals have signed contracts with the NHIF to be financed on the basis of CPs. (In addition, the hospitals get 2% of the minimum monthly salary for each day of stay in a hospital, but for no more than 10 days per year, some hospitals have signed contracts with the NHIF for high-specialized activities that are paid for fee-for-service.)

MoH finances psychiatric hospitals on the basis of reports for activities provided (number of patients treated), haemodialysis, transplantations, emergency care, expensive drugs, etc.

Private hospitals also have signed contracts with the NHIF on the basis of clinical pathways or for high-specialized activities, as well.
The **Ministry of Health** defines the county’s health policy.

The **Minister** is in charge of the hospitals that are 100% owned by the MoH.

The **local authorities** are in charge of the management of the other public hospitals.
Health System

**Sectors**
- Education
- Employment
- Agriculture
- Fiscal Policy
- Urban planning
- ...etc

**Goals**
- Health status
- Financial protection
- Responsiveness

**Ministry of Health**

**Inter-sectorial Action**
- Personal services
- Population services
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION