

## 6. HEALTH CARE FOR FOREIGNERS

*(health insurance of foreigners with the General Health Insurance Company, j.s.c.), health care for foreign citizens and falling ill with selected diseases)*

The information on foreign citizens disclosed in this chapter is attained from national health registers (the National Registry of the Hospitalised and the National Registry of Abortions), information system of bodies for public health protection (TB Registry) and reports on the utilization of health care by foreigners. The reports are processed by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR (IHIS CR) in the framework of the National Health Information System (NHIS). The data are supplemented by information from the General Health Insurance Company, j.s.c. (GHIC, j.s.c.) on health insurance of foreigners in the Czech Republic.

The health care data shown are not any exhaustive information on the utilization of health care by foreigners and conditions of their health in the CR.

Further information can be obtained on the IHIS CR's website: <http://www.uzis.cz>

### **Methodological notes on the tables**

#### **Table 6-1. Health insurance of foreigners with the General Health Insurance Company, j.s.c. from 1 January to 31 December 2008**

The table concerns foreigners with both long-term and short-term residence in the CR, who effected health insurance with the GHIC, j.s.c., namely commercial insurance concluded voluntarily.

The number of insured foreigners increased in 2008 compared to 2007 only by 3.2% and amounted to 43 106 individuals. At the same time, the increasing trend of the number of insured foreigners coming from the EU member states continues, compared to the previous year the increase by 9 % was recorded and their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 5.6%. Most foreigners, who signed health insurance contracts with the GHIC, j.s.c., came again, like in previous years, from Viet Nam, followed by Ukrainians and foreigners from Russian Federation. Vietnamese participated in the total number of insured foreigners with 36.8% (15 869 persons), Ukrainians 19.8% (8 524 persons) and foreigners from Russian Federation 8.5 % (3 680 persons). The health care was utilized most by Ukrainians (27.8%, i.e. 3 201 persons), Vietnamese (21.3%, i.e. 2 095 persons) and Russians (11.4%, i.e. 1 315 persons).

#### **Tables 6-2. and 6-3. Utilization of health care by foreigners**

Data on the utilization of health care by foreigners are measured through annual questionnaire V (MZ) 1-01. It is compiled only by hospitals and regards foreigners that cover health care from health insurance policies concluded in the CR, insurance policies concluded abroad, in cash, or whose health care is reimbursed by state authorities (the Ministry of Health of the CR, Ministry of the Interior of the CR, Ministry of Justice of the CR, regional offices, etc.). The figures also include asylum seekers accommodated in asylum establishments of the Ministry of the Interior of the CR, whose health care is paid by the Ministry of the Interior of the CR.

Foreigners, whose health care is paid for out of public health insurance, are not included in the report.

Tables 6-2. and 6-3. show data for hospitals for health sector in total. It means that besides hospitals coming under the Ministry of Health of the CR there are shown also hospitals under the Ministry of Defence of the CR and Ministry of Justice of the CR. In 2008, Czech hospitals provided health care to 69 770 foreigners. Of that, 40 189 of foreigners treated were from the member states of the European Union. Numbers of foreigners treated in hospitals slightly increase every year, with a proportion of persons from the EU about 50 %.

Health care was provided most often again, like in the previous years, to citizens of Slovakia (20.4%, i.e. 16 102 persons). Following are foreigners from "other" countries (17.5%, i.e. 13 854,

the Ukraine (13.7%, i.e. 10 835 persons), Germany (10.0 %, i.e. 7 903 persons) and other countries of the former Soviet Union (9.1%, i.e. 7 195 persons). Citizens of Slovakia and Germany paid for the health care mostly from foreign insurance, citizens from "other" countries, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union paid for the health care in cash. From the total number of foreigners treated, as in previous years, most of the patients were in the age group of 20 - 59 years (70.1%).

In 2008, according to territorial breakdown, the biggest number of foreigners was treated in hospitals in the Hlavní město Praha Region (41.6%, i.e. 32 871 persons), the Karlovarský Region (12.1 %, i.e. 9 540 persons) the Jihomoravský Region (9,3%, i.e. 7 340persons). The smallest number of foreigners treated was in the Pardubický Region (1.2%, i.e. 975 persons), the Vysočina Region (1.4%, i.e. 1 076 persons), and the Zlínský Region (1.5%, i.e. 1 160 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 554 661 thousand. Of the total costs made costs on patients from the EU 51.9 %, reaching the total amount of CZK 287 767 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest with patients from Slovakia (CZK 128 660 thousand) and "other" patients (CZK 111 003 thousand) from the Ukraine (CZK 68 333 thousand), and Vietnam (CZK 40 962 thousand).

The most often way of payment for health care of foreigners remains even in 2008 payment in cash (38.7%). The proportion of health care costs in total costs amounted to about 85.7 %. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2008, the total of CZK 44 449 thousand (i.e. 8 % of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

More than half (52.1 %) of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent in the Hlavní město Praha Region (CZK 289 287 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (10,5 %, i.e. CZK 58 255 thousand) was the second.

#### **Table 6-4. Foreigners treated in hospitals: by cause of hospitalisation; 2008**

Until the year 2005 the Table 6-4. shows only foreigners with temporary residence. From 2006 it shows foreigners irrespective of length of their stay on the territory of the CR. Dramatic increase in the number of hospitalisations in hospitals compared to 2005 when their number increased by 388% is linked with the change in monitoring of foreigners in the National Register of the Hospitalised where the column "EU nationality" was introduced.

In 2008, the number of the hospitalised foreigners decreased only by 1.7 % compared to the year 2007; it dropped to the total number of 31 153 cases. In 2006 the most frequent reasons for hospitalisation of foreigners were pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium. Following were factors influencing health status and contact with health services (i.e., for example, medical check-ups and examinations, which require hospitalisation, observations after injuries or when there is some suspicion of certain diseases and the like), injuries and poisoning, and diseases of the circulatory system. The least foreigners were hospitalised, like in the previous years, due to diseases of the blood, blood forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism.

In 2008, the total number of the hospitalised in Czech hospitals was 2 271 thousand persons. The number of foreigners hospitalised, namely foreigners irrespective of length of their stay in the CR of the total number of the hospitalised was 1.4%.

#### **Tables 6-5. and 6-6. Abortions in female foreigners**

All types of abortions made in health establishments of the CR shall be reported on the form "Application for Induced Abortion - Report of Abortion and Ectopic Pregnancy". This report is also filled in for female foreigners granted permanent or long-term residence in the CR. Female foreigners with temporary residence and female tourists are not monitored.

In 2008, 3 252 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is an increase in comparison to the previous year (22.3%), of which 2 035 2 526 (77,7 %) were legally induced abortions. Also in the number of vacuum aspirations there was an increase by 24.1 % compared to previous years (1 958 in 2008 and 1 578 in 2007).

*From legally induced abortions (LIA) 8.3% were therapeutic abortions. Vacuum aspirations made up 78% of all LIA.*

*The total number of abortions in female foreigners had been decreasing gradually since 2002 (from 2 751 in 2001 to 2 238 in 2005). From 2006, the number of abortions has been increasing, whereas in 2006 there were 47 more abortions against the previous year, in 2008 it was already by 594 more abortions than in 2007. At the same time, the number of LIA increased from 2 035 in 2007 to 2 526 in 2008.*

*The evaluation of the data by region is influenced by the biggest concentration of foreigners in the Hlavní město Praha Region and the Středočeský Region, in which there is the biggest proportion of abortions within the entire CR.*

*In 2008, 38 194 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported; in total, i.e. including female foreigners, 41 446 abortions were reported. The proportion of abortions in female foreigners in the total number of abortions reported in the Czech Republic increased compared to the year 2007 and was 7.8%.*

**Table 6-7. Newly notified TB cases in the CR; by the patient's country of birth**

*This table gives the number of newly notified cases of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the CR broken down by the country of birth of patients (not necessarily foreigners).*

*There were 879 TB cases newly notified in 2008, i.e. by 1 % more than in the previous year. It means that the number of newly registered cases of TB cases increased in 2008 for the first time since 1999 (see in previous publication). It was caused mainly by the increasing proportion of the foreigner's diseases (21.2 % of the total number of TB cases). Mongolia citizens had the biggest increase of newly notified TB cases in 2008, by 272,7 %.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Chapter 6 on the health care of foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2008 is released in the same extent as in 2007. The data are provided for health sector as a whole. Until and including 2002, only data for the Ministry of Health of the CR were provided in the tables.*

*The comparison of the data on health care utilisation by foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2008 and 2007 suggests that by 1 319 more foreigners signed health care insurance policies with the General Health Insurance Company, j.s.c., which was an increase by 3.2 %. It was accompanied by a higher increase in the number of foreigners utilising health care on the basis of these policies.*

*The number of foreigners treated in hospitals in 2008 was higher than in previous year, by 9 296 persons. Higher number of foreigners treated in hospitals was accompanied by increase of the total costs of health care by 24.9 CZK.*

*Dramatic growth of hospitalisations of foreigners in 2006, compared to 2005, was due to more detailed registration of foreigners in the Register of the Hospitalised, in which not only foreigners with temporary residence are monitored but all foreigners irrespective of the length of their stay on the territory of the CR. Since 2006 the total number of hospitalisations of foreigners has decreased. According to the diseased person's country of birth, the number of newly notified cases of TB in the CR increased for the first time far 8 cases in 2008 compared to 2007.*

*Generally, in 2008, as for the data on health care for foreigners monitored, there was an increase in the total number of foreigners. Only the number of foreigners treated in hospitals by cause of hospitalisation decreased compared to 2007.*