

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 2007

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 2007 compared to 2006 only by 3.8% and amounted to 41 787 individuals. Compared to the previous year, in which a decrease in the number of insured foreigners coming from the EU member states by 10% was recorded, the number increased by 25.5%. Their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 5.3%. 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 37.6% (15 702 persons), Ukrainians 18.7% (7 797 persons) and foreigners from Russian Federation 9.8% (4 095 persons). The health care was utilized most by Ukrainians (29.9%, i.e. 2 945 persons), Vietnamese (21.3%, i.e. 2 095 persons) and Russians (13.2%, i.e. 1 300 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 2007, Czech hospitals provided health care to 69 770 foreigners. Of that, 36 169 of foreigners treated were from the member states of the European Union. The number of foreigners treated is comparable to the year 2006, in which the total of 69 210 foreigners were treated.

Health care was provided most often again, like in the previous years, to citizens of Slovakia (20.2%, i.e. 14 080 persons). Following are foreigners from "other" countries (17.4%, i.e. 12 162

persons, the Ukraine (14.5%, i.e. 10 114 persons), Germany (10.0 %, i.e. 6 989 persons) and other countries of the former Soviet Union (8.0%, i.e. 5 590 persons). Citizens of Slovakia paid for the health care mostly from foreign insurance, citizens from the Ukraine, Germany and other countries of the former Soviet Union paid for the health care in cash. From the total number of foreigners treated, most of the patients were in the age group of 20 - 59 years (69.2%).

In 2007, according to territorial breakdown, the biggest number of foreigners was treated in hospitals in the Hlavní město Praha Region (42.7%, i.e. 29 760 persons), the Jihomoravský Region (11.0%, i.e. 7 646 persons) and the Karlovarský Region (7.8%, i.e. 5 488 persons). The smallest number of foreigners treated was in the Pardubický Region (1.3%, i.e. 895 persons), the Vysočina Region (1.4%, i.e. 976 persons), and the Zlínský Region (1.4%, i.e. 989 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 443 958 thousand. Of the total costs 52.3% made costs on patients from the EU reaching the total amount of CZK 232 171 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest with patients from Slovakia (CZK 110 377 thousand) and "other" patients (CZK 91 847 thousand) from the Ukraine (CZK 55 776 thousand), and Germany (CZK 27 211 thousand).

The most often way of payment for health care of foreigners remains even in 2007 payment in cash (34.8%). The proportion of health care costs in total costs amounted to about 84%. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2007, the total of CZK 46 637 thousand (i.e. 10.5% of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

A half of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent in the Hlavní město Praha Region (CZK 230 893 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (12.0%, i.e. CZK 53 260 thousand) was the second.

Table 6-4. Foreigners treated in hospitals: by cause of hospitalisation; 2007

Table on foreigners hospitalised in Czech hospitals covers hospitals of all government departments.

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 2007, the number of the hospitalised foreigners decreased by 26.7% compared to the year 2006; it dropped to the total number of 31 688 cases. In 2006 the most frequent reasons for hospitalisation of foreigners were pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium. Following were injuries and poisoning, factors influencing health status and contact with health services (i.e., for example, medical check-ups and examinations, which require hospitalization, observations after injuries or when there is some suspicion of certain diseases and the like) 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 2007, the total number of the hospitalised in Czech hospitals was 2 276 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 2007, 2 658 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is an increase in comparison to the previous year (16.3%), of which 2 035 (77%) were legally induced abortions. Also in the number of vacuum aspirations there was an increase by 14.5% compared to previous years (1 578 in 2007 and 1 378 in 2006).

From legally induced abortions (LIA) 8.6% 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: in 2006 there were 47 more abortions against the previous year; in 2007 it was already by 373 more abortions than in 2006. At the same time, the number of LIA increased from 1 744 in 2006 to 2 035 in 2007.

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 2007, 38 259 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported; in total, i.e. including female foreigners, 40 917 abortions were reported. It means that the proportion of abortions in female foreigners in the total number of abortions reported in the Czech Republic increased compared to the year 2006 and was 6.4%.

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 871 TB cases newly notified in 2007, i.e. by 10.5% less than in the previous year. Foreigners accounted for about 17.6% of the total number of TB cases.

Chapter 6 on the health care of foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2007 is released in the same extent as in 2006. 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 2007 and 2006 suggests that by 1 549 more foreigners signed health care insurance policies with the General Health Insurance Company, j.s.c., which was an increase by 3.8%. It was accompanied by a slight increase in the number of foreigners utilising health care on the basis of these policies.

The number of foreigners treated in hospitals is comparable to the data for the year 2006, in which 69 210 persons were treated. The comparable number of foreigners treated in hospitals (with the year 2006) was accompanied by a slight decrease of the total costs of health care by 14 million CZK.

Dramatic growth of hospitalisations of foreigners since 2006 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. However, in 2007 (compared to 2006) the total number of hospitalisations of foreigners decreased. A downward trend continued in the number of newly notified TB cases.

Generally, in 2007, as for the data monitored, there was an increase in the number of foreigners, who effected health insurance with the Insurance company of the GHIC,j.s.c., including the utilization of the insurance. At the same time (in comparison to the previous years) the number of registered abortions made in the CR in female foreigners has increased. Other data in the tables provided show comparable or lower data than in the year 2006.