

6. HEALTH CARE FOR FOREIGNERS

(health insurance of foreigners with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s., health care for foreigners and their falling ill with selected diseases)

Data on foreigners shown in this chapter are obtained from national health registers (the National Register of Hospitalized Persons and the National Register of Abortions), information system of bodies for public health protection (Register of Tuberculosis) 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 Pojišťovna VZP, a.s. (PVZP, a.s.) on health insurance of foreigners in the Czech Republic.

The health care data provide only non-exhaustive information on the utilization of health care by foreigners and their state of health in the CR.

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

The Centre for International Reimbursements (CIR) publishes data on utilization of health care by foreigners - citizens of the EU/EEA and Switzerland, and foreigners from countries with which it has signed an agreement on social security, including the area of health insurance and health care, and data on costs spent for this health care. Over the last reporting period (1 April 2010 – 1 April 2011), there were a total of 89 571 cases of foreign insured persons treated in the Czech Republic and the costs of their treatments paid by their home health insurance companies temporarily were through the CIR transferred to foreign countries. However, it should be stressed that the Centre for International Reimbursements uses a different definition than the Aliens Act. More information can be obtained at: www.cmu.cz/en

Methodological notes on the tables

Table 6-1. Health insurance of foreigners insured with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s. (PVZP, a.s.) from 1 January to 31 December 2010

The table concerns foreigners with both long-term and short-term residence in the CR, who have effected contractual health insurance with the PVZP, a.s. It is insurance of foreigners under the Act No. 326/1999 Coll. on the Residence of Aliens on the Territory of the Czech Republic, as amended (42/2008 Sb.) applying for visa up to 90 days and the visa over 90 days, who are obliged to submit proof of health insurance during their stay in the Czech Republic with the PVZP, a.s. or one of the four competing insurance companies. The data in this publication refer only to one of the insurance companies of that type - PVZP, a.s.

The number of insured foreigners increased in 2010 compared to 2009 by 38.2% and amounted to 46 318 persons. Thus, the growing tendency of the number of contractually insured foreigners continues from 2001, when the publication "Foreigners in the CR" was issued for the first time. A drop was recorded only last year due to a decrease of the number of legal stays of foreigners in the CR. A big increase in the number of the insured persons was recorded among citizens from the Ukraine, namely by 64%, which was caused mainly by the fact that the PVZP, a.s. widened its external network by insurance brokers, who focus more on the clients from the Ukraine. Besides the growing number of the insured foreigners, there was a decline in the number of the insured foreigners from the EU Member States. Compared to the previous year the decrease by 13% was recorded and their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 4.1%. Most foreigners, who signed health insurance contracts with the PVZP, a.s. came from the Ukraine, followed by Vietnamese and foreigners from the Russian Federation. Ukrainians participated in the total number of insured foreigners with 38.2% (17 699 persons), Vietnamese 13.4% (6 220 persons) and foreigners from the Russian Federation 11.5% (5 348 persons). The health care was also utilized most by Ukrainians (32.6%, i.e. 3 907 persons), Vietnamese (21.7%, i.e. 2 593 persons) and Russians (12.7%, i.e. 1 519 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, and the like). 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 from the public health insurance, are not included in the questionnaire.

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 2010, Czech hospitals provided health care to 79 557 foreigners. Of that, 40 137 of foreigners treated were from the member states of the European Union. Numbers of foreigners treated in hospitals slightly increase every year; the share of persons from the EU is about 50%.

Health care was provided most often as well as in the previous years to citizens of Slovakia (21.1%, i.e. 16 783 persons). Following are foreigners from "other" countries (16%, i.e. 12 724), the Ukraine (14.5%, i.e. 11 510 persons), other countries of the former Soviet Union (9.8%, i.e. 7 819 persons) and Germany (7.7%, i.e. 6 151 persons). Citizens of Slovakia and Germany paid for the health care mostly from foreign insurance, citizens from "other" countries, the Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union paid for the health care in cash. From the total number of foreigners treated, the same as in previous years, most of the patients were in the age group of 20 - 59 years (70.9%).

In 2010, according to territorial breakdown, about 50% of foreigners were treated in hospitals in the Hlavní město Praha Region (40 007 persons), the Jihomoravský Region (9.2%, i.e. 7 299 persons), and in the Středočeský Region (6.4%, i.e. 5 121 persons). The smallest number of foreigners - in the amount of 1.3% of the total number of foreigners treated in hospitals of the CR - was treated in the Kraj Vysočina Region (1 047 persons), the Zlínský Region (1 055 persons), and the Pardubický Region (1 063 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 587 559 thousand. Costs on patients from the EU made 54.4% of the total costs, reaching the total amount of CZK 319 808 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest, as every year, for patients from Slovakia (CZK 171 329 thousand) and "other" patients (CZK 102 614 thousand), and the Ukraine (CZK 72 758 thousand).

The most often way of payment for health care for foreigners was payment covered by foreign insurance (30.6%) in 2010. Payment in cash was on the second place as for covering of health care by foreigners (29.3%). The proportion of health care costs in total costs amounted to about 89.0%. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2010, the total of CZK 40 984 thousand (i.e. about 7% of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

More than half (50.7%) of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent in the Hlavní město Praha Region (CZK 297 814 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (12.7%, i.e. CZK 74 786 thousand) was the second.

Table 6-4. Foreigners treated in hospitals by cause of hospitalization in 2010

Until the year 2005 the Table 6-4. showed only foreigners with temporary residence. From 2006 it shows foreigners irrespective of length of their stay on the territory of the CR including tourists. Dramatic increase in the number of hospitalizations of foreigners compared to 2005 is linked with the change in monitoring of foreigners in the National Register of Hospitalized Persons where the column "EU nationality" was introduced.

In 2010, the number of the hospitalized foreigners slightly decreased by 3% compared to the year 2009 to the total number of 32 584 cases. The most frequent reasons for hospitalization of foreigners remain pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium. Following are 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 injuries, poisoning, and some other consequences of external causes. The least foreigners were hospitalized, like in the previous years, due to diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism.

In 2010, the total number of the hospitalized in Czech hospitals was 2 230 thousand persons. The number of foreigners hospitalized, namely foreigners irrespective of length of their stay in the CR of the total number of the hospitalized was 1.5%.

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 with permanent or long-term residence in the CR. Female foreigners with temporary residence and female tourists are not monitored.

In 2010, 3 659 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is a decrease in comparison to the previous year by 12%, of which 1 990 (74.8%) were induced abortions. Also in the number of vacuum aspirations there was a decrease by 13.2% compared to the previous year (1 504 in 2010 and 1 732 in 2009).

From induced abortions 8.7% were therapeutic abortions. Vacuum aspirations made up 75.6% of all induced abortions.

The total number of abortions in female foreigners had been decreasing gradually since 2002 (from 2 751 in 2002 to 2 238 in 2005). From 2006 to 2008, the number of abortions was increasing; whereas in 2006 there were 47 more abortions than in 2005, in 2008 it was already by 594 more abortions than in 2007. Since 2009, after three years of growth, the number of abortions in female foreigners has been decreasing, namely in 2010 compared to 2008 it was the decline by 593 abortions and compared to 2009 by 361 abortions. At the same time, the number of induced abortions decreased from 2 268 in 2009 to 1 990 in 2010.

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 2010, 36 614 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported; in total, i.e. including female foreigners, 39 273 abortions were reported. The proportion of abortions in female foreigners in the total number of abortions reported in the Czech Republic decreased again compared to the previous year and was 6.8%.

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

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

There were 680 TB cases newly notified in 2010, i.e. by 4.2% less than in the previous year. It means that the downward trend in the number of newly registered cases of TB since 1999 still continues. Only in 2008 the growth by 1% was recorded. It was caused mainly by the decreasing proportion of the foreigners' diseases (17.2% of the total number of TB cases). The Ukraine had the highest number of newly notified TB cases in 2010 (33 in total) again.

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Chapter 6 on the health care for foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2010 is released with a more narrow scope than in the previous years. Tables 6-2 and 6-3 Utilization of health care by foreigners are only for the CR in this publication. 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.

It results from the comparison of the data on health care utilisation by foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2010 and 2009 that by 12 809 more foreigners signed health care insurance policies with the PVZP, a.s. (mainly citizens from the Ukraine), which was an increase by 38.2%. It was accompanied by an increase in the number of foreigners utilising health care on the basis of these policies.

The number of foreigners treated in hospitals in 2010 was by 892 persons higher, but the total costs of health care were also higher (+2.2%).

Dramatic growth of hospitalizations of foreigners in 2006, compared to 2005, was due to more detailed registration of foreigners in the Register of Hospitalized Persons, 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. In 2010, compared to 2009, the total number of hospitalizations of foreigners slightly decreased (-3%). According to the patient's country of birth, the number of newly notified cases of TB in the CR decreased again, but only by 30 cases in 2010 compared to 2009 whereas the decrease by 169 cases was recorded in the previous year.

Generally, in 2010, among most of the monitored data relating to utilization of health care by foreigners in the CR there was an overall decrease of the number of foreigners. Compared to 2009, there was a slight increase at utilization of health care by foreigners in hospitals both from the point of view of the number of persons and costs spent on their treatment. The number of foreigners insured with the PVZP, a.s. increased as a result of widening of the external network of the PVZP, a.s. by insurance brokers.