

## 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 were 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 2011 – 1 April 2012), there were a total of 85 198 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](http://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 2011**

The table concerns foreigners with both long-term and short-term residence in the CR, who have concluded contractual health insurance policy with the PVZP, a.s. It is insurance of foreigners under the Act No. 326/1999 Sb. on the Residence of Aliens on the Territory of the Czech Republic, as amended 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 decreased in 2011 compared to 2010 by 49.1% and amounted to 23 584 persons. There was a growing tendency in the number of contractually insured foreigners from 2001 (except for 2009, when there was a decrease in the number of insured foreigners due to a decrease in the number of foreigners staying legally in the CR); the main reason for the decrease in the number of foreigners in 2011 was a change in legislation thanks to which there was a transition from necessary and urgent care to the insurance in the scope similar to the public health insurance. Also the number of granted long-term visa on the territory of the CR has markedly decreased. The total decrease in the number of the insured persons was recorded mainly among citizens from the Ukraine the number of whom dropped by 69.2%. It was caused especially by the aforementioned change of legislation. Besides the total decrease in the number of the insured foreigners, there was also a decline in the number of the insured foreigners from the EU Member States. Compared to the previous year the decrease by 29.1% was recorded and their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 5.7%. Most foreigners, who signed health insurance contracts with the PVZP, a.s. came from the Ukraine, followed by the foreigners from the Russian Federation and Vietnam. Ukrainians participated in the total number of insured foreigners with 23.1% (5 450

persons), foreigners from the Russian Federation with 13.7% (3 223 persons), and foreigners from Vietnam 11.1% (2 620 persons). The health care was also utilized most by Ukrainians (25.4%, i.e. 1 619 persons), Vietnamese (21.1%, i.e. 1 342 persons), and Russians (15.4%, i.e. 979 persons).

#### **Tables 6-2a. (6-2b.) and 6-3a. (6-3b.) Utilization of health care by foreigners**

Data on the utilization of health care by foreigners are measured through annual report "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 report.

The publication "Foreigners in the Czech Republic" contains since 2011 a clearly arranged table, which applies to utilization of health care by foreigners by region broken down by persons utilising health care (Table 6-2b.) or total costs (Table 6-3b.). Tables relating to the utilization of health care by foreigners 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 2011, Czech hospitals provided health care to 83 849 foreigners. Of that, 40 061 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 (21.7%, i.e. 18 194 persons). Following are foreigners from "other" countries (17.7%, i.e. 14 862), the Ukraine (14%, i.e. 11 744 persons), other countries of the former Soviet Union (11.2%, i.e. 9 363 persons) and Germany (7.5%, i.e. 6 323 persons). Citizens of Slovakia paid for the health care mostly from foreign insurance, citizens from "other" countries, other countries of the former Soviet Union, the Ukraine, and Germany 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 (70.6%).

In 2011, according to territorial breakdown, 48.8% of foreigners were treated in hospitals in the Hlavní město Praha Region (40 096 persons), the Jihomoravský Region (9.7%, i.e. 8 127 persons), and in the Karlovarský Region (6.1%, i.e. 5 100 persons). The smallest number of foreigners of the total number of foreigners treated in hospitals of the CR was treated in the Vysočina Region (1%, i.e. 815 persons), the Pardubický Region (1.2%, i.e. 1 020 persons), and the Zlínský Region (1.6%, i.e. 1 330 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 633 657 thousand. Costs on patients from the EU made 56.9% of the total costs, reaching the total amount of CZK 360 626 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest, as every year, for patients from Slovakia (CZK 199 633 thousand) and "other" patients (CZK 102 907 thousand), and the Ukraine (CZK 79 085 thousand).

The most often way of payment for health care for foreigners was payment covered by foreign insurance (32.2%) in 2011, the same as in previous year. Payment in cash was on the second place as for covering of health care by foreigners (29.7%). The proportion of health care costs in total costs amounted to 91.2%. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2011, the total of CZK 35 814 thousand (i.e. 5.7% of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

Nearly a half (48.3%) of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent in the Hlavní město Praha Region (CZK 305 827 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (11.9%, i.e. CZK 75 159 thousand) was the second.

#### **Table 6-4. Foreigners treated in hospitals by cause of hospitalization in 2011**

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 2011, the number of the hospitalized foreigners slightly decreased repeatedly by 2% compared to the year 2010 to the total number of 31 964 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, unlike previous year, due to congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities.

In 2011, the total number of the hospitalized in Czech hospitals was 2 196 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 2011, 2 571 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is a decrease in comparison to the previous year by 3.3%, of which 1 885 (73.3%) were induced abortions. Also in the number of vacuum aspirations there was a decrease by 2.9% compared to the previous year (1 460 in 2011 and 1 504 in 2010).

From induced abortions 10.3% were therapeutic abortions. Vacuum aspirations made up 77.5% 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. In 2011 compared to 2010, the number of abortions in female foreigners decreased only by 88 abortions.

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 2011, 36 293 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported. In total, i.e. including female foreigners, 38 864 abortions were reported in the Czech Republic. 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 6.6%.

#### **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 609 TB cases newly notified in 2011, i.e. by 10.4% 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 a 1% growth was recorded. The number of newly notified TB cases in total in 2010 was by 30 cases lower than in 2009; in 2011 it was even by 71 cases lower than in 2010.

*Year-on-year, the number of TB cases in foreigners decreased by 5; however, since the total number of cases has markedly decreased, their share in all TB cases has slightly increased from 17.2% to 18.3%. The Ukraine had the highest number of newly notified TB cases in 2011 (23 in total) again, although their number decreased by 10 compared to 2010 (in 2010 there were 33 cases).*

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*Chapter 6 on the health care for foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2011 has been published since 2010 with a more narrow scope than in the previous years. It applies to the scope of Tables 6-2 and 6-3 Utilization of health care by foreigners.*

*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. From the comparison of the data on health care utilisation by foreigners in the Czech Republic in 2011 and 2010 it results that by about 50% less foreigners signed health care insurance policies with the PVZP, a.s. (the drop was mainly in citizens from the Ukraine), which was a decrease by 22 734 foreigners. It was at the same time accompanied by a decrease in the number of foreigners utilising health care on the basis of these policies.*

*The number of foreigners treated in hospitals in 2011 was by 4 292 persons higher; the total costs of health care were also higher (+7.8%).*

*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. Compared to the previous year, a much more moderate decrease in the number of abortions was recorded. In 2010, there were 361 abortions less than in 2009; in 2011 there were by 88 abortions less than in 2010. From the total number of abortions only the number of spontaneous abortions increased – it was by 5.1%. According to the patient's country of birth, the number of newly notified cases of TB in the CR decreased again in 2011 and the fall was deeper than in the previous year.*

*Generally, in 2011, 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. The deepest fall occurred in the number of foreigners insured with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s. Compared to 2010, 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.*