

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 Reproduction Health), 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 - nationals 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 provision, and data on costs spent for this health care. Over the last reporting period (1 April 2014 – 1 April 2015), there were a total of 136 329 cases of foreign insured persons treated in the Czech Republic and the costs of their treatments paid temporarily by their home health insurance companies were transferred to foreign countries through the CIR. 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 Tables

Table 6-1. Health insurance of foreigners insured with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s. (PVZP, a.s.) from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

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 for stay up to 90 days and the visa for stay 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 2014 compared to 2013 by 2.4% and amounted to 18 925 persons. The downward trend in the number of contractually insured foreigners slackened compared to 2013. The main reason for the significant drop of the number of the insured persons by about 50% 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, and a marked decrease of granted long-term visas on the territory of the CR.

Besides the total decrease in the number of the insured foreigners, there was again increase in the number of the insured foreigners from the EU Member States (from 1 538 persons in 2013 to 1 616 persons in 2014). Their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 8.5%. The most foreigners of the total number of foreigners, who signed health insurance contracts with the PVZP, a.s. came from the Russian Federation, followed by the foreigners from the Ukraine and the United States. Foreigners from Viet Nam ranked forth this time. Foreigners from the Russian Federation participated in the total number of insured foreigners with 17.9% (3 397 persons), foreigners from the Ukraine with 14.9% (2 828 persons), and foreigners from the United States with 9.5% (1 796 persons). The health care was utilized most by citizens of the Ukraine (429 persons), Viet Nam (426 persons), and the Russian Federation (338 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, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, regional authorities, and the like). The figures also include asylum seekers accommodated in asylum facilities of the Ministry of the Interior, whose health care is paid by the Ministry of the Interior.

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 there are shown also hospitals under the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice. In 2014, Czech hospitals provided health care to 97 185 foreigners. Of that, 47 844 of foreigners treated were from the Member States of the European Union. The numbers of foreigners treated in hospitals are again slightly higher than in the previous years.

Health care was provided most often as well as in the previous years to citizens of Slovakia (21.4%, i.e. 20 824 persons). Following are foreigners from "other" (18.1%, i.e. 17 563 persons), "other countries of the former Soviet Union" (14.5%, i.e. 14 104), the Ukraine (10.8%, i.e. 10 540 persons), and Germany (8.1%, i.e. 7 862 persons). Citizens of Slovakia and Germany paid for the health care mostly from foreign insurance, citizens from "other countries of the former Soviet Union", "other" countries, and the Ukraine paid for the health care usually 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 (69.1%).

In 2014, according to territorial breakdown, most of foreigners were treated in hospitals in the Hl. m. Praha Region (44.4%, i.e. 43 108 persons), the Jihomoravský Region (11.8%, i.e. 11 449 persons), and in the Karlovarský Region (9.1%, i.e. 8 854 persons). The smallest number of foreigners of the total number of foreigners treated in hospitals of the CR was treated again in the Pardubický Region (1.0%, i.e. 1 017 persons) and the Vysočina Region (1.1%, i.e. 1 055 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 724 347 thousand. Costs on patients from the EU made 57.4% of the total costs, reaching the total amount of CZK 416 058 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest, as every year, for patients from Slovakia (CZK 201 915 thousand), "other" patients (CZK 139 669 thousand), and patients from the Ukraine (CZK 70 304 thousand).

Within payments for health care provided to foreigners in hospitals the highest share belonged to a payment in cash, namely CZK 290 412. This form of payment was used by 47.6% foreigners, i.e. 46 220 persons. Payment from foreign insurance was 32.3% as for total payments for health care by foreigners (CZK 234 181 thousand). The proportion of health care costs paid in the total costs amounted to 93.3%. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2014, the total of CZK 30 011 thousand (i.e. 4.1% of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

Nearly a half (45.5%) of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent again in the Hl. m. Praha Region (CZK 326 971 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (13.8%, i.e. CZK 100 088 thousand) was the second.

Table 6-4. Foreigners treated in hospitals by cause of hospitalization in 2013

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 was linked with the change in monitoring of foreigners in the National Register of Hospitalized Persons where the column “EU nationality” was introduced.

In 2014, the number of the hospitalized foreigners increased by 7.1% compared to the year 2013 and amounted to 36 158 cases. The most frequent reasons for hospitalization of foreigners remain the same as in previous years: 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 due to diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism.

In 2014, the total number of the hospitalized in Czech hospitals was 2 287 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 1.6%.

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 2014, 1 955 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is again another decrease in comparison to the previous year, i.e. by 9.9%, of which 1 337 (68.4%) were induced abortions. From induced abortions 15.3% were therapeutic abortions. Vacuum aspirations made up 71.2% of all induced abortions. Compared to the previous year, they again decreased in their number by 15.9% (952 in 2014 and 1 121 in 2013).

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. Since 2009, after three years of growth, the number of abortions in female foreigners has been decreasing. While the year-on-year decrease in 2013 was 148 abortions, in 2014 the number of abortions decreased even more markedly by 216.

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

In 2014, 35 001 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported. In total, i.e. including female foreigners, 36 956 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 5.3%.

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 514 TB cases newly notified in 2014, i.e. by 2.4% more than in 2013. It means that in 2014 a downward trend in the number of newly notified TB cases, which started in 1999, was again interrupted the same as in 2008 and 2012. To put it concretely, the number of newly notified TB cases in total in 2014 was by 12 cases higher than in 2013.

Year-on-year, the number of TB cases in foreigners increased by 17 and their share in the total number of TB cases increased from 15.7% to 18.7%.

The Ukraine had the highest number of newly notified TB cases in the CR in 2014 (22 in total) again; their number increased by 6 newly notified TB cases compared to 2013. In 2014, the Register of Tuberculosis recorded newly for surveyed years 1 case of TB in a foreigner from the Netherlands.

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Chapter 6 on the health care for foreigners in the Czech Republic 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 were provided in the tables.

From the comparison of the data on health care utilisation by foreigners in the Czech Republic in 2014 and 2013 it results that by about 2.4% 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 468 persons. The drop of the number of the insured persons 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 2014 was by 2 828 persons higher. The total costs of health care increased compared to 2013 by 12.1%. The number of hospitalized foreigners increased by 7.1% (i.e. by 2 401 patients) compared to 2013.

In 2014, the decrease in the number of abortions in female foreigners increased again. While in 2012 the number of abortions in female foreigners dropped by 252, year-on-year, and in 2013 it dropped by 148 abortions compared to 2012, the y-o-y drop in 2014 amounted to 216. Induced abortions made up 68.4% of all abortions (including ectopic pregnancies); ectopic pregnancies made only 1.9% of all abortions. In 2014, a decrease was recorded as for both the number of induced abortions, which dropped by 157 cases (1 337 in 2014 compared to 1 494 in 2013) as well as the number of ectopic pregnancies, which dropped by 32 cases (37 in 2014 compared to 69 in 2013). According to the patient's country of birth, the number of newly notified cases of TB in the CR increased (by 12 cases) in 2014 compared to 2013.

Generally, in 2014, there was a decrease of monitored data relating to the number of foreigners insured and utilizing the insurance with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s., and at abortions in female foreigners in the CR. Among other data, there was an increase compared to 2013, namely at data relating to utilization of health care by foreigners in hospitals from the point of view of the number of persons and costs spent on their treatment, the number of hospitalized foreigners, and the number of newly notified TB cases among persons born outside the CR.