

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 2013 – 1 April 2014), there were a total of 119 201 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 to 31 December 2013

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 2013 compared to 2012 by 10.1% and amounted to 19 393 persons. Downward trend in the number of contractually insured foreigners has continued compared to 2012, namely since 2011 when the main reason for the drop of the number of the insured persons by about 50% 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 visa 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 1 364 persons in 2012 to 1 538 persons in 2013). Their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 7.9%. The most foreigners of the total number of foreigners, who signed health insurance contracts with the PVZP, a.s. came as every year from the Ukraine, followed by the foreigners from the Russian Federation and Viet Nam. Ukrainians participated in the total number of insured foreigners with 17.4% (3 375 persons), foreigners from the Russian Federation with 14.2% (2 771 persons), and foreigners from Viet Nam 9.6% (1 871 persons). The health care was utilized most by Ukrainians (604 persons) and Vietnamese (575 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 2013, Czech hospitals provided health care to 94 357 foreigners. Of that, 43 932 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 (20.6%, i.e. 19 463 persons). Following are foreigners from "other countries of the former Soviet Union" (16.1%, i.e. 15 201), "other" (15.7%, i.e. 14 828 persons), the Ukraine (12.6%, i.e. 11 922 persons), and Germany (7.9%, i.e. 7 501 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 (70.1%).

In 2013, according to territorial breakdown, most of foreigners were treated in hospitals in the Hlavní město Praha Region (46.0%, i.e. 43 435 persons), the Jihomoravský Region (10.5%, i.e. 9 865 persons), and in the Karlovarský Region (10.0%, i.e. 9 401 persons). The smallest number of foreigners of the total number of foreigners treated in hospitals of the CR was treated in the Pardubický Region (0.9%, i.e. 874 persons) and the Vysočina Region (1.1%, i.e. 1 031 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 646 178 thousand. Costs on patients from the EU made 52.7% of the total costs, reaching the total amount of CZK 340 219 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest, as every year, for patients from Slovakia (CZK 168 882 thousand), "other" patients (CZK 119 577 thousand), and patients from the Ukraine (CZK 75 804 thousand).

Within payments for health care provided to foreigners in hospitals the highest share belonged to a payment in cash, namely CZK 220 977. This form of payment was used by 46.2% foreigners, i.e. 43 605 persons. Payment from foreign insurance was 29.7% as for total payments for health care by foreigners (CZK 192 192 thousand). The proportion of health care costs in total costs amounted to 92.1%. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2013, the total of CZK 33 451 thousand (i.e. 5.2% of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

Nearly a half (48.4%) of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent again in the Hlavní město Praha Region (CZK 312 713 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (12.2%, i.e. CZK 78 648 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 2013, the number of the hospitalized foreigners was almost the same compared to the year 2012 and amounted to 33 757 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 due to diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism.

In 2013, the total number of the hospitalized in Czech hospitals was 2 244 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 again 1.5%, the same as in 2012.

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 2013, 2 171 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is again another decrease in comparison to the previous year, i.e. by 6.4%, of which 1 494 (68.8%) were induced abortions.

From induced abortions 14.2% were therapeutic abortions. Vacuum aspirations made up 75.0% of all induced abortions. Compared to the previous year, they again decreased in their number by 9.4% (1 121 in 2013 and 1 237 in 2012).

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. While there was a year-on-year decrease by 88 abortions in 2011 and in 2012 it was 252 abortions, the decrease in the number of abortions compared to the previous year slowed down and was only by 148 lower.

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 2013, 35 516 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported. In total, i.e. including female foreigners, 37 687 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 5.8%.

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 502 TB cases newly notified in 2013, i.e. by 17.8% less than in 2012. It means that in 2013 there was again a drop in the number of newly registered cases of TB. A downward trend, which started in 1999, was thus interrupted only in 2008 and 2012 when a slight growth of the number of newly notified TB cases was recorded. To put it concretely, the number of newly notified TB cases in total in 2013 was by 109 cases lower than in 2012.

Year-on-year, the number of TB cases in foreigners decreased by 26 and their share in the total number of TB cases dropped from 17.2% to 15.8%.

The Ukraine had the highest number of newly notified TB cases in 2013 (16 in total) again, however, their number decreased by 8 newly notified TB cases compared to 2012.

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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 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 2013 and 2012 it results that by about 10.1% less foreigners signed health care insurance policies with the PVZP, a.s. (the drop was mainly in citizens from Viet Nam), which was a decrease by 2 180 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 2013 was by 5 201 persons higher. The total costs of health care remained almost the same as in 2012 (growth only by 0.9%). The number of hospitalized foreigners increased by 5.1% (i.e. by 1 735 patients) compared to 2012.

In 2013, decrease of the number of abortions in female foreigners slackened. While in 2012 the number of abortions in female foreigners dropped by 252, year-on-year, in 2013 it dropped by 148 abortions compared to 2012. Induced abortions made up 68.8% of all abortions (including ectopic pregnancies); ectopic pregnancies made 3.2% of all abortions. While the number of induced abortions decreased by 165 cases (1 494 in 2013 compared to 1 659 in 2012), the number of ectopic pregnancies increased by 8 cases (69 in 2013 compared to 61 in 2012).

According to the patient's country of birth, the number of newly notified cases of TB in the CR decreased (by 109 cases) in 2013 compared to 2012.

Generally, in 2013, there was a decrease of monitored data relating to utilization of health care by foreigners in the CR, foreigners insured with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s., abortions in female foreigners, and the number of newly notified cases of TB at persons born outside the CR. Among other data, there was an increase compared to 2012, namely at data relating to 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 as well as the number of hospitalized foreigners.