



Government of the Republic of Macedonia
Ministry of Health

Doc. Dr. Venko Filipche, Minister of Health

Dear,

The Ministry of Health and I personally, are committed to strengthening all segments of the healthcare system, in order to provide as high-quality healthcare services as possible, for all citizens. We specifically focused on preventive healthcare, as a basic pillar of the healthcare system. For that particular reason, we gradually strengthen the capacities of the Emergency Medical Assistance and the polyvalent patronage service. The Emergency Medical Assistance is vital for the provision of emergency healthcare and saving human lives. Our goal is to strengthen this service throughout the country and to provide a quick and timely response, as well as availability of these services for every citizen in the Republic of Macedonia, both in urban and in rural areas. The strengthening is both in terms of staff, as well as in terms of new equipment and new vehicles. As part of the preparations for the EU membership, one of the strategic commitments of the Ministry of Health in the period up to 2019 is to improve this service, for the purpose of which conducting of structural and functional analysis of the Emergency Medical Assistance is being realized with EU support. We will pay special attention to home healthcare, in order to unburden the higher levels of healthcare (secondary and tertiary), however also to enable citizens to receive services at home, which is especially important for the elderly and for all persons with special needs. Simultaneously we will improve the postoperative care of patients, having in mind the demographic structure of the population in the Republic of Macedonia, and therefore the need of better quality healthcare for the elderly is imposed. The goal is to ensure that public healthcare institutions have a nurse who will be obliged to contact the patient at home after the performed surgery, to provide information about the patient's health condition, in order to timely prevent eventual complications from the surgery. The polyvalent patronage services will work more actively on the ground, in order to provide advice for pregnant women and to educate mothers about better care of the newborn in the period before and after giving birth.

After conducting thorough analysis for the needs of staff strengthening at secondary and tertiary level, we are preparing an action plan for expanding the network of healthcare institutions, by strengthening various specialties depending on the needs, and especially for gynecology, pediatrics, anaesthesiology, pathology, etc. I would like to mention that every year at the proposal of the Ministry of Health, the Government adopts preventive and curative programs, which include planned activities for promotion of the population's health, such as: Immunization Program, HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, Program for Tuberculosis, Program for Maternal and Child Healthcare, Program for General Medical Examinations of Children, Program for Malignant Diseases, Program for Rare Diseases, etc. For this year, we have a significant increase of the funds for most programs, for example: the funds for the Program for Maternal and Child Healthcare have been increased for 6 million denars, the funds for the Program for Rare Diseases have been increased for 10 million denars, while additional 68 million denars will be dedicated to the HIV/AIDS Prevention Program. We will pay special attention to maternity wards, which we will certify as maternity wards that are prepared with complete equipment and educated staff, as one of the measures to reduce infant and maternal mortality. In cooperation with UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, education of gynecologists throughout the country will be conducted, wherewith together with the adopted new protocols, we will contribute to better healthcare for mothers and children. At a tertiary level, we will implement a functional modus for unobstructed operation and coordination of the clinics. The goal is to unburden the clinics and by strengthening the clinical hospitals as regional healthcare institutions, more patients will be referred there, while the Clinical Center as the supreme institution will treat the most complex patients and health conditions. For the first time this year, we provide free flu vaccination, for pensioners over 60 years of age, with lower pension, and for those who do not receive a pension at all. Considering the fact that the most advanced equipment and the most modern methods require fully educated staff, we will also focus on the education of the healthcare staff through cooperation with top experts from the European Union, and aiming to additionally stimulate the doctors, in the second half of the year we will increase salaries by 5%. I would like to point out that all efforts of the Ministry for promotion of healthcare are in constant coordination and cooperation with the non-governmental sector, as well as with the numerous professional associations in the field of medicine. We work together for better healthcare for every citizen in the Republic of Macedonia, as a duty, obligation and a main strategic goal of the Ministry I manage.

Respectfully,

Doc. Dr. Venko Filipche