

HOUSEHOLDS' OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURES FOR THE SERVICES OF THE HOSPITAL SECTOR IN UKRAINE: RESULTS OF HEALTH INDEX. UKRAINE 2017 STUDY

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Despite the changes which are taking place in all healthcare systems, the hospital sector as a whole remains the most resource-consuming, as noted in numerous international researches and publications.

31.8% of current health care expenditures were directed at financing of hospitals in Ukraine (National Health Account of Ukraine, 2016).

Hospitals used to receive funds from public (82.1%) and private sources of funding (17.9% - from households) (National Health Account of Ukraine, 2016).

The distribution of funds is carried out according to the existing infrastructure, and not to the real needs defined by the structure and levels of morbidity of Ukrainian population (National Health Account of Ukraine, 2016).

Data and methods. Results of the national household survey "Health Index. Ukraine", 2016, 2017. This study sample is representative of the adult population (18 and older) of Ukraine in general, as well as of each oblast of Ukraine and of the city of Kyiv. More 10,000 respondents were interviewed.

Sociological, analytical, comparative methods have used.

Results in general: 24,4% of those who were admitted to hospital within the past 12 months paid informally (including 54.6% on request) (2017).

Out-of-pocket payments for inpatient services were slightly more often made by city residents (26,7%) than rural (2017).

The considerable burden of informal expenditures on inpatient treatment falls on households with an aggregate family income 1501-2500 UAH (\$ 60-100) per adult (43.3% of respondents indicated that they paid for such services informally) (2017).

The average size of informal payments (among those who had such expenditures during their hospital stay) was 2520,95 UAH (\$101) (median-400UAH (\$ 16) (2017).

Respondents aged 45–51 paid the largest sum of informal payments than other respondents (the average size of informal payments among those who had such expenditures during their hospital stay was 4895,67 UAH (\$196).

Concluding remarks. In Ukraine, the system of inpatient care depends to a largely dependent on private expenditures, which, in turn, takes place under the direct payment scheme "out-of-pocket". This creates financial barriers to access to health services for the population.

Reported growth of informal expenditures for inpatient care, compared with 2016 year: 2520,95 ± 574,19 USD (\$ 101 ± 23) (2017) to 1859,71 ± 275,83 (\$ 66 ± 10) (2016), which limits access to healthcare services.

This is a particular burden for the most unprotected groups of the population, who need appropriate state policies to ensure universal access and financial coverage for inpatient care.

Policy makers should aim to address the underlying reasons for informal payments, including through increasing public allocations to the health sector and adopting measures to improve health system governance and transparency.