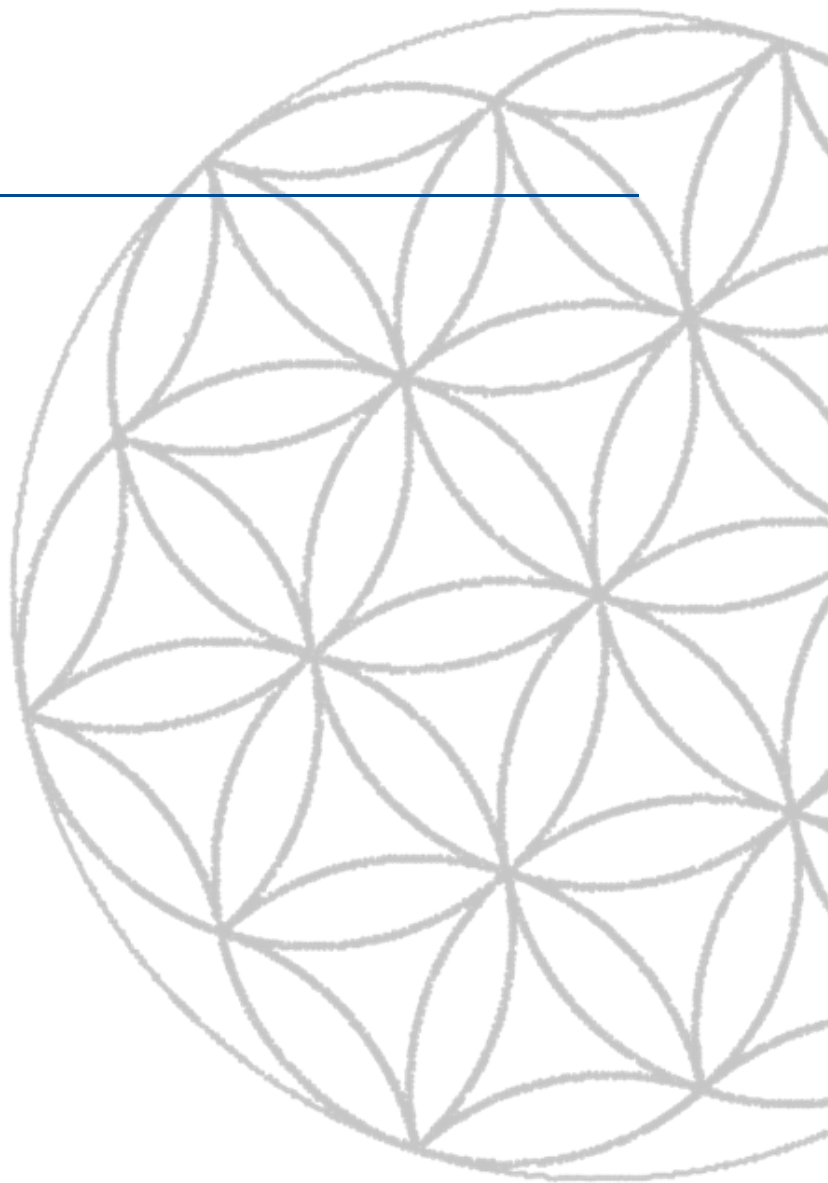


Medical assistance in Poland

A guide for citizens of Ukraine

9 March 2022



Persons using medical services in Poland are subject to special legal protection. Regardless of their nationality, all patients have the same rights. Below we discuss the key patient rights and legal solutions concerning citizens of Ukraine.

Planned changes in law

The Polish government is preparing special legal solutions allowing for settlement of the costs of medical services provided to Ukrainian citizens arriving in Poland in connection with Russia's military aggression.

These solutions will apply to citizens of Ukraine who have a certificate issued by the Polish Border Guard or a stamp by the Border Guard in their travel document, confirming their legal stay in Poland after crossing the border on or after 24 February 2022 in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine.

The regulations will cover medical facilities that have signed a contract with the National Health Fund. The changes in law will be retroactive to 24 February 2022.

The rules for providing medical services for citizens of Ukraine and settlement of the costs of such services will be identical as in the case of Polish patients. Citizens of Ukraine will have an additional basis entitling them to health benefits in Poland.

The National Health Fund will pay for services with funds from the state budget. The basis for settlement will be the rates included in the contracts with the National Health Fund.

A patient from Ukraine—how medical facilities should act

Special legal solutions are being drafted, but even now, when a patient from Ukraine comes to healthcare providers, they:

- Should not refuse to help
- Should not refer the patient to another provider
- Should not require the patient to pay for services rendered and should not invoice the patient for the services
- Should record separately each case of providing assistance to a citizen of Ukraine, on the basis of data from the patient's passport or other travel document or from a certificate issued by the Polish Border Guard.

Reporting and settlement of health services provided to citizens of Ukraine under contracts with the National Health Fund will be possible as soon as a special law is passed and settlement solutions are defined.

Patient's rights

APPROPRIATE QUALITY OF CARE

Every patient has the right to medical services meeting the requirements of modern medicine and delivered with due care by healthcare providers under conditions meeting the professional and sanitary requirements defined by specific regulations. This means that while the quality of care may vary, it must meet at least some minimum acceptable standard.

UNDERSTANDABLE MEDICAL INFORMATION

As part of the medical services provided by a physician, every patient has the right to obtain accessible information from the physician about:

- His or her state of health
- Diagnosis
- Proposed and possible methods of diagnosis and treatment
- Anticipated consequences of application or non-application of such methods
- Treatment outcomes
- Prognosis.

If anything is unclear, ask your doctor or other healthcare professional about it.

Note that medical facilities are not required to provide an interpreter. However, you may be able to get help from family or friends, volunteers or professional interpreters.

MEDICAL CARE ONLY WITH YOUR CONSENT

Every patient has the right to give informed consent to receive certain medical services or to refuse such consent. This means that no one should be treated by force. Medical care is not provided without your consent. Consent must be informed, and therefore preceded by the information mentioned above. You have the right to know what you are agreeing to.

MEDICAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Medical practitioners, including those providing medical services, have a duty to keep confidential any patient-related information obtained in connection with the practice of medicine. This means that no one other than you, your designees or other authorised persons will receive information about your health.

APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS

Every patient has the right to respect for their intimacy and dignity, especially when receiving medical services. This means that while healthcare settings may vary, they should provide a sense of privacy and proper handling. At your request, a relative may be present when medical services are provided.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS

Every patient has the right to access medical records concerning his or her condition and the medical services provided to them. This means that the medical services provided must be documented. You may also obtain prescriptions, referrals and other medical records. You will also be able to use these documents for further treatment, even if it is not continued in Poland.

Medicine

If you do not have refugee status, you will pay the full price for prescription drugs. Persons arriving from Ukraine in relation to the ongoing armed conflict there are not eligible for reimbursed medicines.

If you have refugee status, you are entitled to use healthcare services in Poland financed from public funds, including reimbursed medicines. The prescription must bear the “BW” symbol. You will also need to provide proof of refugee status.

In a life or health emergency, you can obtain a prescription directly from the pharmacy. This is known as a pharmaceutical prescription, which is issued by a licensed pharmacist. The full price is paid for such prescription drugs.

You can also fill a prescription issued in Ukraine, paid in full at a Polish pharmacy, if it contains the following information:

- Patient's name
- Patient's address
- Common (international) name or trade name of the medicine
- Form of the medicine
- Strength of the medicine
- Amount of the medicine
- Date of issue of the prescription
- Details of the person issuing the prescription in the form of an imprint or stamp and the signature of the person issuing the prescription.

Covid-19

As of 25 February 2022, an amendment to the regulation establishing certain restrictions, orders and bans in relation to the outbreak of an epidemic entered into force. Under the amendment, persons crossing the Polish–Ukrainian border in connection with the armed conflict do not have to undergo quarantine or show a negative Covid test result. Additionally, they can get vaccinated against Covid-19 and tested for free.

Special law

On 7 March 2022, the Polish government adopted a draft of a special act on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict in that country. The main points of the special act in the area of healthcare are:

- Access to free medical care under the same rules and in the same scope as persons covered by obligatory or voluntary health insurance in Poland
- Costs of healthcare services will be borne by the National Health Fund
- Simplification of the rules for employing medical professionals (doctors and nurses) from Ukraine and referring them to work, e.g. at sanitary hubs or temporary hospitals.



Małgorzata Sokółowska
attorney-at-law

Healthcare practice

malgorzata.sokolowska@wardynski.com.pl



Natalia Fałęcka-Tyszka
attorney-at-law

Healthcare practice

natalia.falecka-tyszka@wardynski.com.pl

WARDYŃSKI & PARTNERS

AL. UJAZDOWSKIE 10

00-478 WARSAW

PHONE: +48 22 437 82 00, 22 537 82 00

FAX: 22 437 82 01, 22 537 82 01.

E-MAIL: WARSAW@WARDYNSKI.COM.PL

WWW.WARDYNSKI.COM.PL

KRAKÓW

UL. LUDWINOWSKA 7/5

30-331 KRAKÓW

PHONE: + 48 12 290 86 20

FAX: + 48 12 290 86 21

KRAKOW@WARDYNSKI.COM.PL

POZNAŃ

UL. MARCELIŃSKA 90

60-324 POZNAŃ

PHONE: + 48 61 651 87 00

FAX: + 48 61 651 87 01

POZNAN@WARDYNSKI.COM.PL

WROCLAW

UL. GWIAZDZISTA 66

53-413 WROCLAW

PHONE: + 48 71 348 86 00

FAX: + 48 71 348 86 01

WROCLAW@WARDYNSKI.COM.PL