



PHI Healthcare Center Skopje

Spec. Dr. Zlate Mehmedovic
Director of the PHI Healthcare Center Skopje

Dear,

As holders of the primary and preventive healthcare system in Macedonia, we are committed to improving public health, while being led by its definition, which states that health is not only an absence of a disease, but also a condition of the organism that implies complete physical, mental, and social well-being. At the basis of every sustainable and efficient healthcare system in the world that promotes public health there is an efficient primary and preventive healthcare, available to all citizens, everywhere. Our primary goal is to protect and promote the health of citizens. And when we treat, we do so at the primary healthcare level, thereby we reduce the number of patients referred to treatment in tertiary healthcare, and thus we enable clinicians to dedicate maximum attention to patients with severe health disorders. We will continue to work continuously on such a functional setup, in order to correct the deficiencies of the health system that has been neglected systematically and organizationally neglected in the past 10 years. For both purposes, quality and efficient outpatient healthcare, as health authorities, we work with the support of our partner, the World Health Organization. With their help we promote health policies, health economics, and health management. With the Ministry of Health we have achieved a full consensus on the strengthening of public health. Macedonia, according to its Constitution, is a welfare state that primarily needs a stable public health system, that all political and health entities in the country will zealously work on. Only in such a way we will succeed in modeling an accessible, efficient, and economical health system. We need a systematic reorganization of the health system at all levels: technical equipping, staffing, involvement in educational preventive campaigns, raising public awareness among citizens about the importance of timely healthcare. The process of technical equipping of polyclinics has started, we disperse diagnostic procedures in the system, citizens can receive healthcare in local outpatient clinics and polyclinics, such as magnetic resonance, ultrasound cabinets, digital mammographs, EEG devices, and they do not have to go to the tertiary level clinics for this type of imaging.

At the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, the implementation of employments has started in healthcare centers throughout the country as holders of outpatient healthcare, which is also aimed at increasing the availability of services for the citizens. We are working on an analysis for the improvement of the work and the manner of functioning of the Services for Emergency Medical Assistance. New vehicles for the Emergency Medical Assistance intended for all cities in the country are currently being procured. Intensive efforts have been dedicated to the upgrading of the functionality of the health visiting services. The goal is an efficient setup of health visiting services in the healthcare system that now successfully work together with social services to promote the health of vulnerable groups in the society. Over the past year, a legal obligation has been fulfilled which is in accordance with the European legislation and refers to the provision of primary healthcare in the penitentiary institutions. Many challenges are ahead of us in this regard, and as health authorities, above all we need to provide better working conditions of the medical staff and quality healthcare services in prisons, and we are intensively working on that. Outpatient healthcare is exceptionally important in the world health practice, and it also integrates a system in which the specialist-consultative services are of great significance for keeping patients at the level of primary healthcare by providing quality specialist healthcare services. With an intensified pace we are working in coordination with the Ministry of Health on their technical and educational upgrading. General health practitioners have a significant role in primary healthcare. We are continuously working on a high health level for the application of group practice in the provision of healthcare services at a primary level and their integration with the public health system. We also apply the preventive approach through the educational processes in the newly opened parenting school (in the polyclinic Jane Sandanski in Skopje), followed by the opening of the same type of schools in Bitola and Gostivar. Promotion of oral health through education in schools is very important, and it is already a part of the new 10-year strategy for the promotion of oral health. We must work intensively on the education about the importance of immunization, because we need to rebuild trust among parents and citizens when it comes to the importance of vaccines. With the new employments in the primary healthcare system, we will strengthen the immunization teams at all vaccination points throughout the country. Primary healthcare is a synonym of care for children and adults, in villages and in cities. It implies better nutrition, physical habits, early diagnostics, a family doctor, a social worker, or a pharmacist who will be available for you at the corner of your street. Primary healthcare requires support, support to succeed to be a holder of the healthcare system, to be the guardian of our health, to be everywhere, for all of us, throughout our lives. This is the message from the Global Conference in Astana, where I participated at the end of 2018, this is the message I conveyed to our Macedonia. Let us work on the revival of world practices in Macedonia as well, because the health of citizens and must be a priority, for every responsible institution and country.

Respectfully,

Spec. Dr. Zlate Mehmedovic