

6TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

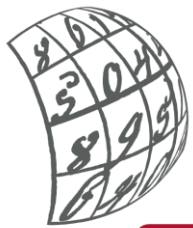


UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE
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SLOVENIAN RESEARCH AGENCY

PREVENTION OF THE CORRUPTION IN THE MONTENEGRIN HEALTH- CARE SYSTEM

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Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty

CORRUPTION OF THE MONTENEGRIN HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- Corruption in the health-care system is a severe issue that can lead to insufficient health-care service, poor patient health, and depletion of public funds. Corruption in the health sector can manifest itself in a variety of ways. The most prevalent of mentioned ways are:
 - **Bribes** paid by medical product providers to guarantee that their products are used in health-care institutions.
 - **Bribes** paid by patients in order to obtain access to particular therapies or to hasten the treatment process.
 - **Corruption** committed by medical personnel, such as doctors, nurses, and technicians, through excessive medication prescriptions, unneeded diagnostic tests and treatments, or unjustified increase in costs.



SIDE EFFECTS OF THE CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- *Corruption* in the health-care system is harmful for number of reasons:
 1. It has an impact on the quality of health-care services.
 2. It increases the risk of health problems such as complications and death
 3. It threatens the affordability of the health care
 4. Increases the cost of the health care
 5. It reduces the trust in the health-care system



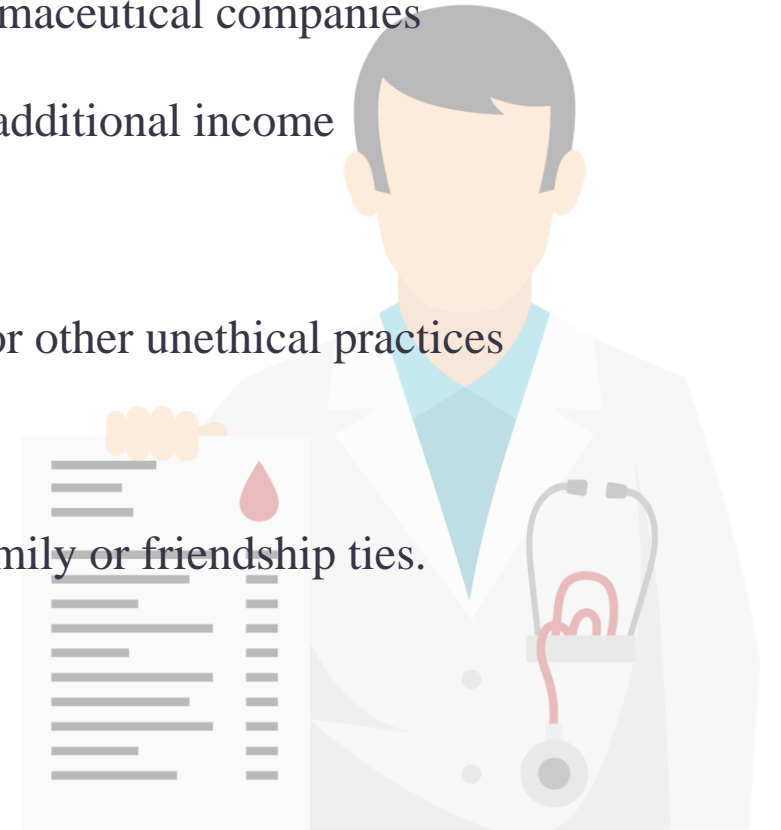
SIDE EFFECTS OF THE CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- To reduce corruption in the health sector, several measures must be implemented, including:
 - i. the strict implementation of ethical standards
 - ii. training of medical workers on how to recognize and prevent corruption
 - iii. improving transparency in the health-care system
 - iv. and strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms.



EXAMPLES OF THE CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- Accepting bribes or bribing medical workers in exchange for medical services or privileges
- Unjustifiably high prices of drugs and medical devices that correspond to pharmaceutical companies
- Deliberately creating long waiting lists or retaining patients in order to obtain additional income
- Misuse of funds for the procurement of medical supplies
- Incompetent employment and promotion of health workers due to family ties or other unethical practices
- Falsifying medical reports in order to obtain sick leave or other benefits
- Omitting certain patients from the waiting list or prioritizing them based on family or friendship ties.



WHY WOULD DOCTORS ACCEPT BRIBERY?



❖ FINANCIAL NEEDS:

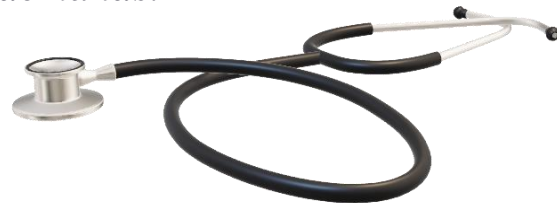
- *Doctors who are poorly paid or who have high expenses, such as expensive medical equipment or high loan rates, can feel the pressure to accept bribes in order to make up for the lack of earned money.*

❖ CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- *In some countries, corruption has deep roots in the health-care system, so doctors may consider bribery for a normal practice. In this way, they can try to fill in the gap between their income and the income based on their expectations.*

❖ PATIENT PRESSURE:

- *Some patients may offer bribes in order for doctors to accelerate the treatment process, provide them with privileged treatments or give them access to the certain treatments. In these situations, doctors ,who are under the pressure, can accept bribes in order to satisfy the patient's demands.*



CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION ON THE WAITING LIST

- *URGENCY*
- *SEVERITY OF THE HEALTH CONDITION*
- *WAITING TIME*
- *AGE*
- *FINANCIAL STATUS*
- *AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND CAPACITY*
- *REGULAR MONITORING*



It is important to note that priorities and waiting lists may differ from case to case, depending on the patient's state of health and the availability of medical services and equipment. All of the patients have the right to an equal opportunity to receive quality treatment, and there should be a well organized waiting list to ensure that right.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE WAITING LIST



I. Non-compliance with the waiting list in Montenegrin health-care is a frequent problem.

There are various reasons for this problem, including corruption, inadequate organization and lack of resources.

This can lead to an unequal treatment of the patients and violation of the right to an equal treatment opportunity. Failure to respect the waiting list most often occurs when the patients are faced with a long waiting time for medical services and then turn to individual doctors, often with bribes or some other form of corruption, in order for the waiting list to be bypassed.

This is extremely unfair to the patients who respect the waiting list and patiently wait for their turn.



FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE WAITING LIST



- II. Combined with the long waiting lists, corruption in the Montenegrin health-care system can be particularly harmful to the patients who are suffering from serious health conditions, as they may be forced to wait longer for medical services they desperately need in order to survive or heal.

- III. In order to solve the problem of non-compliance with the waiting list in Montenegrin health-care, it is necessary to strengthen legal measures that prevent corruption and prioritizing certain patients.

It is also necessary to: *improve the organization of the health system (including improving the availability of medical services and resources), provide more doctors and medical staff in order to reduce the waiting time.*



RESOURCES FOR PREVENTING CORRUPTION IN THE MONTENEGRIN HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

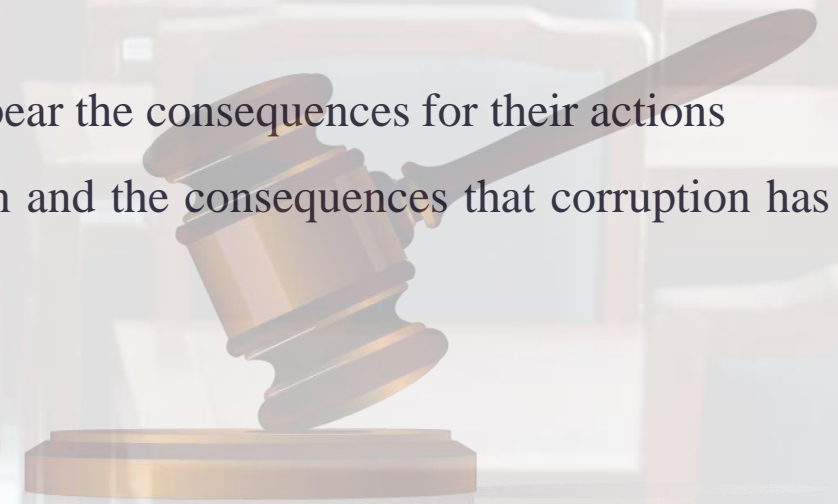
In Montenegro, there are various state resources for preventing corruption in the health-care system.

Some of them are:

- i. **Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (ASK)** (has a mandate to monitor, analyze and prevent corruption in the health-care system)
- ii. **The Prosecutor's Office** (has the authority to initiate criminal proceedings against people accused of corruption and has the authority to confiscate property acquired through the mentioned corruption)
- iii. **Health Inspection** (it's role is to monitor and check the quality of the health services and to detect cases of the corruption)
- iv. **Ministry of Health** (responsible for drafting the policy of the health system, and can also enact regulations and laws aimed at combating corruption in health care)
- v. **Medical Ethics Committee** (responsible for deciding on patient-delivered complaints about the work of doctors, determining and sanctioning cases of violations of ethical standards in medicine)

PREVENTION OF THE CORRUPTION IN THE MONTENEGRIN HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- *Prevention of the corruption in the health system is crucial to ensure that patients receive adequate health care, medical professionals perform their work professionally and ethically, and for public finances to be used in an efficient and transparent manner.*
- In order to prevent the corruption in the health-care system, it is necessary to:
 - i. Introduce stricter laws that will punish corruption in the healthcare system
 - ii. Establish a transparent system in which it is clearly visible who has access to the health resources and how they are managed
 - iii. Ensure that those responsible for corruption in the health-care system bear the consequences for their actions
 - iv. Educate health workers about the importance of preventing corruption and the consequences that corruption has on the patients and the system in general.



CASES OF THE CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

- Employee of the Health Center Podgorica M.R. was arrested on suspicion of publishing a list of data on patients in Podgorica with Covid-19.
- He is suspected of having, as an employee, forwarded the data to his colleagues via Viber.
- His arrest happened on 7th of April 2020.



CONCLUSION

- The results in the fight against corruption in the healthcare system of Montenegro are still very modest, despite numerous legal and by-law changes. The reform processes that are carried out with the aim of improving health care, raising the quality of health services, and suppressing informal payments and possible corrupt practices in the health system of Montenegro, do not produce the desired results.
- The Montenegrin public does not recognize the results of anti-corruption measures, and 58% of citizens believe that corruption is present or is present to a large extent in the health system. It is particularly worrying that corruption is present to the greatest extent in the patient/doctor relationship.



LITERATURE

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

