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Health policy in the Polish health care system

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Summary

The main goal of health policy is to ensure the health security of society. There are many definitions of health policy. Health policy is one of the most important forms of public activity. Health policy programs include multi-annual programs established by the Council of Ministers. They implement the strategies adopted by the government - they concern important phenomena and problems that require decisions and actions at the level of the Council of Ministers. As part of social policy, it should be embedded in social and economic realities and be oriented on ensuring conditions favorable to maintaining the health of societies.

Admission

In accordance with art. 68 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of April 2, 1997, everyone has the right to health protection. Citizens, regardless of their financial situation, are guaranteed equal access to publicly funded healthcare services. Therefore, the Polish healthcare system was based on the principle of solidarity and shared responsibility for financing health expenditure, and its operation is regulated by a number of laws.

Health policy - definition and tasks

There are many definitions of health policy. According to Frąckiewicz, this is a deliberate and organized activity of the state and cooperating non-state institutions to protect the health of citizens, as well as to improve the health of the population [21]. Włodarczyk gave a comprehensive definition as "a identifiable process of intentionally induced events related to health issues on a supra-individual scale, in which process ruling decisions are present" [24]. This definition emphasizes, inter alia, the separated and ordered in the form of a process nature of activities that deserve to be called such a policy.

Health Policy is also defined as a set of Health Strategies related to the implementation of a specific political goal related to the health of the entire society of the country [16]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), national health policy should express goals to improve the health situation, set priorities within these goals and indicate the main directions of their implementation. Health policy indicates what should be done, who should do it, in what period of time and defines the necessary financial resources [23]. Health policy takes place at the local, regional, national and international levels.

According to the Act on healthcare services financed from public funds, a health policy program is a set of planned and intended activities in the field of health care assessed as effective, safe and justified, enabling achievement of assumed goals within a specified period, consisting in detecting and meeting specific health needs and improving the condition health of a specific group of beneficiaries, developed, implemented, implemented and financed by the minister or a local government unit [22].

The main goal of health policy is to suggest solutions on a national scale that will be accepted by the public due to real opportunities to improve the state of health of the population [4, p. 64]. According to the WHO, the most important health policy goals are: reducing health inequalities, disease and accident prevention, and appropriate healthcare organization that helps those in need and ensures respect for the patient's dignity [1, pp. 325-338].

In 2012, 53 Member States of the WHO European region adopted the Health 2020 resolution, which presented the framework of regional policy for health. Activities undertaken for the implementation of "Health 2020" concern four priority areas:

1. investing in health throughout life, while increasing the ability to influence decisions and actions in matters of health in the population dimension and shaping one's own health (empowerment);
2. taking the necessary action against the main health threats in the European Region associated with chronic non-communicable diseases and still dangerous infectious diseases;

3. strengthen people-centered health systems, public health options, maintain preparedness, and respond to emergencies of health;

4. creating adaptive communities (resilient communities) capable of properly adapting to the changing environment including crisis and difficult situations as well as creating an environment supporting these tasks. in the European Union [17, pp. 87-91].

There is also a third Health Action Program (2014-2020) in EU countries that sets out priorities such as health promotion and prevention, protecting citizens against health threats, innovative and effective cooperation between health systems, and improving access to better and safer systems health care [18].

Health policy as a subordinate body supports his work by:

- recognizing the society's real health needs,
- assessment of health system resources,
- analysis and assessment of the efficiency of the operating healthcare system,
- assessment of the level and quality of services provided,
- assessment of the possible use of the potential of reserves in scientific and technical progress,
- calculation of the actual cost of treatment,
- making everyone having a direct impact on health promotion, health behavior and health protection aware of their shared responsibility for the state of health of the society [21, p. 64].

Health policy is one of the most important forms of public activity. As part of social policy, it should be embedded in social and economic realities and be oriented on ensuring conditions favorable to maintaining the health of society [1, pp. 325-338]. The health policy of the commune, powiat, voivodship or government agencies should be a planned long-term process of including social groups not susceptible to health interventions to the rest of society, which can reduce health inequalities [19, p. 70].

Health policy programs in Poland

The implementation of health policy is evident in the organization of the health care system, promoting a healthy lifestyle and protecting the environment in which man lives, including through health policy programs.

According to Magdalena Sokołowska and Jacek Hołowka, health policy programs, like other social policy programs, "should be clearly defined in four respects: 1) they should have clearly defined goals; 2) these goals should be consistent with other socially accepted values; 3) the implementation of the programs should take into account the attitudes of the persons concerned

by the program and 4) should be carried out using methods that can optimally reconcile these goals, values and attitudes. " The assessment of the implementation of these assumptions may become the basis for the assessment of health care programs and health policy [2].

Health policy programs are developed, implemented, financed and evaluated, their effects at every level of local government. Information on implemented programs is sent from communes to poviats and from poviats to the voivodship self-government. These programs concern important epidemiological phenomena, important health problems concerning a specific target group of patients and the implementation of new medical and preventive procedures. Health policy programs are financed from public funds. Programs implemented by local government units should use all opportunities to increase responsibility for health-related choices in the widest circle of people.

Health policy programs include multi-annual programs (e.g. the National Cancer Control Program and the National Transplant Medicine Development Program), which are established by the Council of Ministers. They implement the strategies adopted by the government - they concern important phenomena and problems that require decisions and actions at the level of the Council of Ministers [14].

The current multi-annual health policy programs in Poland include:

1. National antibiotic protection program for 2016-2020. As part of this program, the ministry wants, among others prevent drug resistance of microorganisms and introduce antibiotic policy in Polish hospitals that will make their use more rational [9].
2. A program for comprehensive protection of reproductive health in Poland. The goal of this program is to increase the availability of high-quality infertility diagnosis and treatment services [8].
3. A health policy program serving the implementation of the 'Behind' comprehensive family support program for 2017-2021. The objectives of the program include, above all, coordinating neonatological and pediatric care for children, nutrition of breast milk for newborns and infants, and early rehabilitation of children [10].
4. Outpatient Support Program for Diabetic Foot Syndrome Treatment. Its implementation will allow the creation of a network of cooperating offices throughout the country, and patients will have easier access to professional medical care. This is to reduce the number of amputations and to reduce the time to treat foot ulcers in people with diabetes [12].
5. The program for preventing depression in Poland for the years 2016-2020. As part of the program, the ministry wants, first of all: to develop recommendations on how to prevent, detect and treat depression in Poland, educate the society through the media, and reach preventive

measures for people from groups with increased risk of getting sick thanks to school staff and the health care system [13].

6. POLKARD Cardiovascular Prevention and Treatment Program for the years 2017-2020. Under the program, the ministry wants to reduce the number of deaths from cardiovascular diseases to 427 deaths per 100,000. persons (a decrease of 3% compared to the data from 2014). The main goal is to retrofit medical equipment and apparatus in hospitals [11].

7. National Transplant Medicine Development Program. During the program, the ministry wants the same number of cell, tissue and organ transplants as in other European countries [6].

8. Newborn screening program in Poland. The main goal of the program is to break down so that as few newborns, infants and children as possible die of birth defects. We also want to prevent severe physical and intellectual disabilities that may result from these defects. Thanks to tests it is possible to develop 27 diseases in newborns [7].

9. Monitoring the state of oral health of the Polish population in 2016-2020. The programs include nationwide epidemiological and socio-medical research. The aim of the general review of the research is: a general assessment of the oral health of children and adults, adjustments that social, economic and cultural phenomena affect in determining the state of health in the dental tests and the possibilities of access to dental care and indication of appropriate preventive and therapeutic needs [4].

10. Antiretroviral treatment of people living with HIV in Poland. The main goal of the program is the overall AIDS mortality rate among people infected with HIV [3].

11. National treatment program for patients with hemophilia and related hemorrhagic rocks for 2012-2018. As part of the ministry's program, first of all, we want to treat hemophilia and related hemorrhagic rocks and improve their quality of life [5].

12. Ensuring the self-sufficiency of the Republic of Poland in blood and its components. Thanks to the implementation of the program, it is possible to keep the donations collected at a stable level (approx. 1.2 million donations), improve the use of blood and its components in the hospital, and also use motor vehicles to transport blood and its components that will ensure the highest quality of transport.

Local government health policy programs differ from multi-annual programs in that they operate locally. These programs should focus on defined local needs and threats as well as actions directed at a specific group of people, complementing and supporting national measures financed by the National Health Fund. Tasks related to the implementation of health policy programs are not obligatory tasks of local government units [15].

From the research of the Supreme Audit Office (NIK) in 2015, health policy programs were implemented and financed only in 24.2% of local government units in Poland. In total 1,116 programs were implemented. Most often they concerned breast cancer and HPV vaccinations, influenza.

There is a great territorial differentiation in terms of local government health policy programs. The differences between richer, urbanized voivodships and poorer regions are more than tenfold.

In total, local governments showed 70.393.4 thous. PLN expenditure incurred in 2015 on the implementation of health policy programs, and the average expenditure on local government implementing the health policy program was 146 thousand. zł. Expenditure on health policy programs has been growing upwards since 2012, however, the share of local government expenditure on these programs is negligible compared to total expenditure in 2010-2015. Voivodship self-governments spent most on health policy programs (PLN 739,000), followed by poviats and cities with poviat rights (PLN 297 thousand). The municipalities earmarked the least for this purpose (PLN 79,000). By uneven funding for local government health policy programs, the phenomenon of inequality in access to health services is deepened.

Final conclusions

The country's health policy is a very important area of public life. As part of social policy, it should be embedded in social and economic realities and be oriented on ensuring conditions favorable to maintaining public health. The implementation of health policy is evident in the organization of the health care system, promoting a healthy lifestyle and protecting the environment in which man lives. It is influenced by many factors, including demographic changes, civilization and technological progress, and economic realities. The future health of society depends on precisely formulated goals and tasks.

The state's health policy through legal regulations defines the objectives of a given health care system and - by providing resources - influences their implementation.

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