

# PUBLIC HEALTH REFORMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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**Annotation:** The article presents health of human beings and education of health generation on the basis of great state. - Healthcare reforms is one of the main areas of state policy, Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. A particular attention is paid in our country to further improving the healthcare system, stimulating the work of medical workers, wide introduction of modern technologies and treatment methods.

**Key words:** Healthcare, healthy generation, successful and longevity life, public health,

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev made a speech at the event to pay attention to the health of the population. Consumer goods are among the tasks that stand before us to expand production and fully satisfy the needs of the population for them, including the full provision of our people with a wide range of food products at acceptable prices. In order to protect human health, which is an invaluable asset for us, it is necessary to carry out measures to radically improve the health sector, first of all, the activities of its primary departments and rural medical units, providing services on the basis of ambulance and high technologies, the further development of specialized special centers, to be at the center of attention of

Uzbekistan is a central Asian country that became independent in 1991 with the break-up of the Soviet Union. Since then, it has embarked on several major health reforms covering health care provision, governance and financing, with the aim of improving efficiency while ensuring equitable access.

Primary care in rural areas has been changed to a two-tiered system, while specialized polyclinics in urban areas are being transformed into general polyclinics covering all groups of the urban population.

Secondary care is financed on the basis of past expenditure and inputs (and increasingly self-financing through user fees), while financing of primary care is increasingly based on capitation. There are also efforts to improve allocative efficiency, with a slowly increasing share of resources devoted to the reformed primary health care system. Health care provision has largely remained in public ownership but nearly half of total health care expenditure comes from private sources, mostly in the form of out-of-pocket expenditure.

There is a basic benefits package, which includes primary care, emergency care and care for certain disease and population categories. Yet secondary care and outpatient pharmaceuticals are not included in the benefits

package for most of the population, and the reliance on private health expenditure results in inequities and catastrophic expenditure for households. While the share of public expenditure is slowly increasing, financial protection thus remains an area of concern. Quality of care is another area that is receiving increasing attention. World Health Organization 2014 (acting as the host organization for, and secretariat of, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies).

President of Uzbekistan Shvakat Mirziyoyev signed a resolution “On measures to introduce an innovative model of healthcare management in the Republic of Uzbekistan”.

The resolution defines the strategic goals of implementing the innovative model of healthcare management in Uzbekistan:

- sustainable improvement of health indicators of the country’s population and the level of satisfaction with the health system, determined according to international methods;
- achievement of the leading positions in the effectiveness of medical services in the region and a worthy place in the world rankings;
- a significant increase in the share of the private medical care sector, its quality and accessibility;
- formation of medical tourism as a budget-forming branch of the economy;
- creation of a modern system of continuing education and professional development of medical and pharmaceutical workers, including management personnel.

The reforms in this regard are of particular importance as they are aimed at radically improving the quality of providing medical services and medicines to the population,” continued Shavkat Mirziyoyev. On December 12, the minister of health was replaced.

Since the summer of 2012, Adham Ikromov has been appointed the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan to replace Anvar Valievich Alimov, who has been acting as the minister of health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The prime minister was also appointed as Minister of health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The president, commenting on these changes, emphasized that "the strongest personnel in the Reserve are placed in important places". He accused the previous responsibilities in the field of irresponsibility. It is also mentioned in the speech of the president that some of the 15 target programs for 2017-2021 years have been adopted, their implementation has been initiated, and works on the approval of all other programs in this direction have been completed in the near future. The meeting, conducted via videoconferencing, was attended by the members of the Government, senators, khokims of regions, heads of ministries and agencies, state and public organizations, rectors of medical higher educational institutions, healthcare professionals.

The Ministry of Health (with a total staff of 88) is the major player in organizing, planning and managing the Uzbek health system. Regulation remains the almost exclusive prerogative of the government, with little or no role played by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) or professional associations. As the government-owned health system still largely follows the integrated model (with the government being the principal payer and provider of health services), almost all health workers are government-salaried employees. Although the

government initially left the private sector free to develop, with only limited oversight, following an increase in unnecessary, unsafe or substandard care in the private sector, the government has significantly limited the type of services that can be provided in the private sector, in particular with regard to complex surgical procedures.

Regulatory oversight has also been strengthened, allowing the Ministry of Health to conduct unannounced inspections. Patient rights and patient choice have been set out by law, but are still underdeveloped in actual practice.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On citizens’ healthcare” guarantees provision of quality medical services to the population. A particular attention is paid to revering the representatives of this profession, motivating their hard work. The decree of the First President of our country “On state program of reforming the healthcare system of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, adopted on 10 November 1998, has served as an important factor in creating a united system of mother and child protection, meeting modern requirements and ensuring provision of qualified medical aid in all regions of the country.

In accordance with this document, a modern system of medical services on providing the first medical aid has been created in our country, which has included rural medical units and city family polyclinics. At present, high-quality medical services are provided at specialized scientific-practical centres of cardiology, surgery, eye microsurgery, urology, therapy and medical rehabilitation, endocrinology, pulmonology and phlebology, obstetrics and gynaecology, dermatology and venereology, paediatrics and others. Around 50 thousand highly technological complex surgeries are carried out at these medical establishments, over 600 thousand patients are provided outpatient services. As a result of topical scientific studies in over twenty spheres of medicine, over 1000 diagnostic and treatment standards have been developed. In 2016, announced as the Year of healthy mother and a child, loans and grant funds in the amount of 80 million US dollars were directed towards equipping the country's health institutions with modern diagnostic and medical equipment, women of childbearing age and children underwent medical examinations and health recreation.

Over 350 children with hearing problems were conducted a cochlear implant surgery at the republican specialized scientific and practical medical centre of paediatrics. 700,000 children were vaccinated against pneumococcal disease and other infectious diseases. But life is constantly changing, the demands of people are increasing. The medical culture of the people, their demand for medical services with up-to-date methods is rising. Gone are the days when people were content with only what is available. This, along with all spheres, also directly applies to medicine, the President of our country said. Therefore, professionals in the field have to learn the most advanced, modern achievements of world medicine, methods of treatments. Complacency is a serious obstacle to further development. Announcement of 2017 as the Year of Dialogue with the people and human interests has a deep meaning. After all, human interests include health issues, the availability of full access to modern health services. Shavkat Mirziyoyev at his campaign meetings had

emphasized the need to engage in direct dialogue with the people, to learn about the issues of concern to citizens, to listen to their opinions and suggestions.

The population has many actual problems in this area, which is also confirmed by the fact that more than 7000 requests and applications to the virtual reception of the Prime Minister are related to healthcare and medicine. People's applications, their views and suggestions necessitate further improvements in this sphere. Our President elaborated on the forthcoming work in this area, the problems, waiting for their solution. The issues relating to the activities of rural medical stations have been highlighted. Currently, rural medical centres are adequately equipped with means of laboratory testing, diagnostic aids for primary medical examination. However, we cannot deny the shortage of trained professionals, who know how to use this modern medical equipment, and residents of some remote areas need to go to the district or regional centre in order to just take a blood test.

In some places, health check-ups are carried out formally, the President of our country continued.

The shortage of qualified professionals in remote areas suggests that much remains to be done to address the staffing issue. Rural health units have to work around the clock. To this end, it is necessary to build an adjacent house for a doctor, working at the rural health unit. A number of measures, aimed at improving the provision of emergency medical assistance to the population, have been adopted. But we cannot say that today our people are satisfied with the quality of these services. A fundamental change of the system is the imperative of our time. It is necessary to organize separate clinics for girls and women, the Head of our state said. The birth of a healthy generation, future owners of our day, depends largely on the health of women.

When it comes to health, we have to remember one truth: medical professionals are guardians of our health. People must trust them, and they have to win the trust of the people, Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized. A lot of problems, waiting for their solution, concern specialized medical centres. All existing centres are located in Tashkent. This creates disadvantages for the rural population.

Professionals from specialized medical centres should visit the regions and provide medical services to people on the ground, carry out surgeries, said the President of our country. At the meeting, the responsible officials were given specific instructions concerning the further development of healthcare, improving the level and quality of medical services in accordance with international standards, widespread introduction of advanced educational technologies in the training of young professionals, further expanding cooperation with leading medical centres and educational institutions of the world, well-known scientists and experts, and other relevant issues.

1. To define as strategic objectives of implementing an innovative model of health management in the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- ensuring sustainable improvement of health indicators of the country's population and level of satisfaction with the national health system determined in accordance with universally recognized international practices;
- taking at initial stage of the leading positions on effectiveness of medical care in the region and a worthy place in the world ratings on health system efficiency in the future;
- a significant increase in the share of private sector in a volume of medical care provided to the population, improving its quality and accessibility;
- formation of a medical tourism as a budget-forming branch of the national economy with a consistent increase in its contribution to the country's gross domestic product;
- creation of a modern system of continuous education and professional development of medical and pharmaceutical workers of the republic, including management personnel, in accordance with the international standards.

2. To establish the National Chamber of Innovative Healthcare of the Republic of Uzbekistan (further - the National Chamber) defining as its main tasks the following:

- development of a strategy for development of public health services of the republic, proposals for introduction of an innovative model of health management taking into account advanced international standards and the best world practices;
- organization of development of modern clinical guidelines and protocols, quality standards for diagnosis and treatment, and standards for material and technical equipment, monitoring for their timely introduction;
- improvement and digitization of a system of medical statistics collection and analysis, and introduction of international standards and techniques that exclude possibility of manipulating statistical indicators in order to provide necessary statistical information;
- introduction of a system for registration of doctors and pharmacists of the republic, and formation and maintenance of a single, publicly accessible electronic database;
- assistance in creation of a health infrastructure that meets international standards, including in attracting financial resources to equip medical and pharmaceutical organizations with modern equipment and introducing advanced information and communication technologies, and establishing new organizations in the field of health care;
- taking measures to increase a prestige of medical workers, a prestige of the profession and a confidence in the national health care system, mastering among medical workers rules of ethical behavior, eradicating and preventing manifestations of corruption and ensuring public control over their professional activities;

- establishment of an effective monitoring system over a level of professional qualification of medical workers, and correspondence of their skills to the modern requirements and the best world practices, including through introduction of individual licensing of the activities;
- improving a system of training and retraining of medical workers, introduction of modern standards in the area, and active attraction in the country of highly qualified foreign experts and health professionals, organization of internships of domestic specialists and experts abroad;
- development and introduction of effective mechanisms to reduce an incidence of doctor (medical) errors, misdiagnosis and treatment of diseases on the basis of in-depth study of activities of domestic medical organizations and the best world practices in the field;
- adapted introduction of the best foreign practices in the country's health management system, including issues of organization and control of activities of medical organizations, and creation of organizational and legal framework for introduction of health insurance of citizens;
- development and introduction of effective mechanisms of public-private partnership in the domestic healthcare with a purpose of actively attracting private foreign investment, first of all, direct investment, and accelerated development of the private healthcare system;
- establishment of cooperation with foreign (international) medical and other organizations on health issues, including organization of meetings, negotiations and other events in order to attracting grant, credit, donor and other funds to the country's healthcare system, and monitoring and control over their targeted and effective use;
- provision of comprehensive information, consulting, legal and other support to potential investors, especially foreign investors, on issues of investing in development of a private healthcare system of the country, including through developing business plans and attracting funding sources for implementation of initiated projects.

3. To establish that the National Chamber:

- is formed on a basis of the Scientific Research Institute of Public Health and Health Organization under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its territorial units, while maintaining a current procedure for their financing, and is also a legal successor to their rights and obligations;
- has its own structural units in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and the Tashkent City, and structures and regulations of which are approved by the Chairman of the National Chamber;
- is an organization uniting medical and pharmaceutical workers of the republic, responsible for implementation of an innovative model of healthcare management of the republic, including ensuring achievement of the strategic goals defined in the Resolution;
- interacts with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, government bodies, medical and other organizations in the field of implementation of an innovative model of health management and other issues within its competence;

- is an authorized organization for establishing effective cooperation with foreign (international) health organizations in developing and implementing a strategy for reforming the health management system in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and attracting grant, credit, donor and other funds to the health care system and monitoring and control over their targeted and effective use;
- has the right to act as a founder of medical, pharmaceutical and other organizations, to organize on a fee-contract basis services on training of health workers;
- provides for an introduction by December 31, 2020 of the system for registration of doctors and pharmacists, who carry out professional activities in the country, and the creation of the unified, generally accessible electronic database.

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