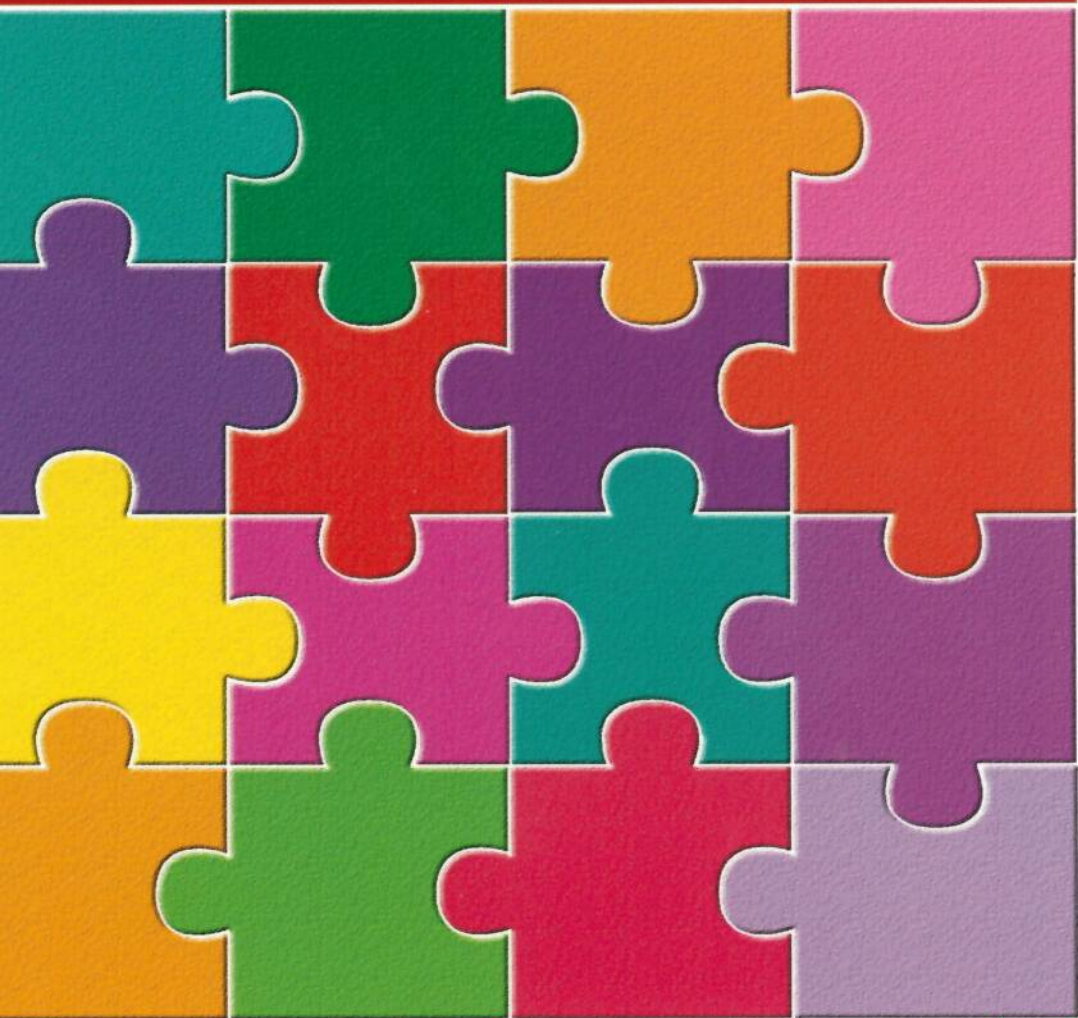




European Fund  
for the Integration of Third-country  
nationals

European Integration Fund



**Educational material**

# Health and Social Care Service

# Health and Social Care Services

**Information for foreigners, who are not  
nationals of European Union memberstates,  
Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland**

Rīga, 2012

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This material was made within the framework of the Latvian Red Cross Youth (LSKJ) and the Project of the European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals "Learn about it, this is our Latvia and we are proud of its language and culture!" (contract Nr. IF/2010/1.1./33).

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# Preface

This educational material was made within the framework of the Latvian Red Cross Youth (LSKJ) and the Project of the European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals *"Learn about it, this is our Latvia and we are proud of its language and culture!"* (contract Nr. IF/2010/1.1./33).

The educational material will be useful for third-country nationals (individuals, who do not hold a citizenship of any European Union member state, European Economic Area state or the Swiss Confederation), who are currently residing in Latvia and require information on health and social services.

Wishing to know and love Latvia,  
Latvian Red Cross Youth

## **The state guaranteed health care in Latvia is received by:**

- Latvian citizens;
- Latvian non-citizens;
- The European Union, the European Economic Area and Swiss citizens residing in Latvia due to employment or self-employed persons and their families;
- Foreigners who have permanent residence permit in Latvia;
- Refugees and persons with subsidiary protection;
- Detainees, prisoners and persons sentenced to imprisonment.

Free maternity care and childbirth assistance is possible for spouses who have temporary residence permit in Latvia, or the husband is Latvian citizen or non-citizen.

Other persons may receive medical services for a fee according to the pricelist of chargeable services of the medical institution or specialist doctor.

According to the European Union legislation and/or international agreements the state guaranteed health care can be obtained by:

- persons who have a special form issued by one of the European Union Member States, the European Economic Area countries or Switzerland, which confers the right to health care;
- Russian military retirees residing in the Latvian Republic;
- Ukrainian nationals residing in the Latvian Republic who receive pension paid by the Ukrainian State or pension paid by the Latvian government, as well as those staying in Latvia temporarily presenting a passport of a citizen of Ukraine, passport of a citizen of third country with a note on the residence in Ukraine;
- Algerian nationals who are employed in the Latvian Republic.

After arrival in Latvia persons shall submit an application in order to be included in the register of prepaid health service recipients. This can be done in the National Health Services (Cēsu iela 31 k-3, Rīga, LV-1012).

# Insurance policy

In order to receive a temporary residence permit the person shall present a health insurance policy. The policy should cover at least:

- Emergency medical assistance.
- Treatment of critical life or health condition in hospital.
- Transportation to the closest medical institution in both above-mentioned cases.
- Transportation to the country of origin in case of serious illness or death.

On receipt of the initial temporary residence permit or temporary residence permit after an interval longer than 90 days, the alien must submit a statement issued by Latvian health authorities that the person does not have tuberculosis in the active phase.

## Latvian health care is divided in 4 levels

1. Emergency medical assistance — sudden illness or injury, endangering life of the injured person;

2. Primary health care — the first stage of contact between patients and health care providers (general physician, physician assistant, nurse, midwife, dentist, dental assistant, dental nurse, and hygienist);

3. Secondary health care — specialized inpatient and outpatient health care, which focuses on immediate, acute or planned health care (which is provided in outpatient treatment centres, hospital outpatient departments, emergency medical institutions, day hospitals, hospitals);

4. Tertiary health care — highly specialized health care services, which are provided by one or more medical professionals with additional qualifications in specialized medical institutions.

**To receive state-funded health care services is possible only in medical institutions (regardless of form of ownership) that have signed a contract with the National Health Services.**

To see whether a medical institution provides state-funded health care services go to the site [www.vmnvd.gov.lv](http://www.vmnvd.gov.lv) or call the hotline 80001234 (working days 8.30 am — 5.00 pm), or write to [vmnvd@vmnvd.gov.lv](mailto:vmnvd@vmnvd.gov.lv). Address — Cēsu iela 31 k-3, Rīga, LV-1012.

## Health care financing in Latvia

Health care in Latvia is provided by the state budget and the payment of patients — patient contribution and co-payment.

## Emergency medical assistance

If the injured person (sick person) is in a condition critical to his/her life and health, emergency health care in Latvia is provided by:

- Ambulance — free of charge;
- medical institution — collecting patient contributions in accordance with laws and regulations.

***Emergency medical assistance can be called by dialing 113 or 112 or 03***

In order to receive state-funded health care, a person must be registered with a GP.

To register with a GP, go to the general practitioner, who is in a contractual relationship with the National Health Services and is operating within the territory of your residence.

## General practitioner's phone consultation

If you need medical advice outside of the practitioner's general hours, call this phone number.

Call if you have:

- Cold, fever.
- Vomiting, diarrhoea.
- Abdominal pain, pain in ears, throat a.o.
- Wounds, abrasions, body bruises.
- Minor injuries.
- Exacerbation of chronic disease.

Phone line is available

Working days from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am, weekends and holidays — 24h!

## **Ambulatory aid**

To receive the secondary assistance (ambulatory health care services) — specialist consultations, diagnostic tests, day hospital services a referral of GP or a specialist doctor is required.

Once you have the referral, you can turn to any medical institution that provides the state-funded treatment.

GP referral is not required by the following specialists:

- psychiatrist, if a person is suffering from a mental disease;
- narcologist, if a person is suffering from alcohol, drugs or psychotropic substances;
- physiopneumonologist, if a person is suffering from tuberculosis;
- dermatovenerologist, if a person is suffering from a sexually transmitted disease;
- endocrinologist, if a person is suffering from diabetes mellitus;
- oncologist, if a person is suffering from an oncological disease;
- gynaecologist;
- ophthalmologist;
- children's surgeon;
- pediatrician.



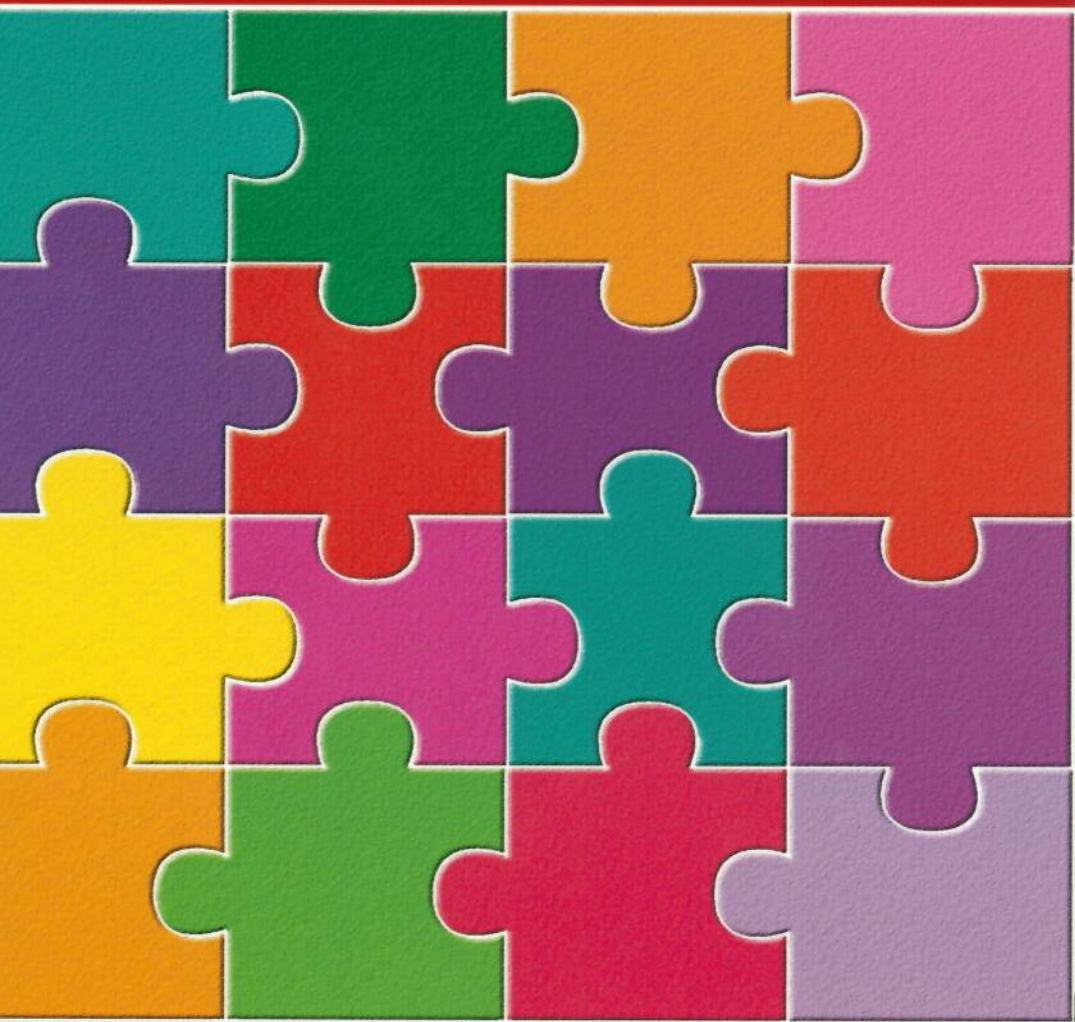
Having the respective diagnosis these professionals can be visited without the referral of patient's general practitioner, paying a patient's contribution of Ls 3.00.

In order to pay Ls 3.00 when visiting other specialists, the referral of patient's general practitioner is required.

Children under the age of 18 may visit a dentist who has a contractual relationship with the state without a referral and free of charge.

## References

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2. Emergency medical assistance service [http://www.nmpd.gov.lv/nmpd/kad\\_saukt\\_NMP/](http://www.nmpd.gov.lv/nmpd/kad_saukt_NMP/)
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