

## STATE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME IN GEORGIA



THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME IS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULATION OF GEORGIA. IT APPLIES TO PERSONS WITH RECOGNIZED STATELESS STATUS, REFUGEE OR HUMANITARIAN STATUS AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN GEORGIA, TO THE SAME EXTENT AS TO GEORGIAN CITIZENS.

## I. HOW TO SUBSCRIBE FOR AMBULATORY SERVICES UNDER THE STATE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME?

To receive planned ambulatory services, a person should register in any primary healthcare clinic, participating in the Universal healthcare program (provider facility) with a valid identification document issued by the Georgian authorities, and sign a consent form.

Beneficiaries can register at only one clinic at a time with a free choice of medical facilities across Georgia.

For the first two months after registration the beneficiary must go to the clinic where he/she was initially registered, but afterwards the clinic can be changed every two months.

The clinic family doctor refers patients to specialists as appropriate.

**To locate the nearest clinic call the Hotline: 1505 or check the following website: [www.moh.gov.ge](http://www.moh.gov.ge)**

For non-urgent surgical and oncological services, beneficiaries must apply to the Social Service Agency, for a letter of guarantee.

## II. TYPES OF PACKAGES

1. Standard State Universal Healthcare package;
2. Minimal State Universal Healthcare package;
3. Universal Healthcare packages for specific age and vulnerable groups.

### 1. STANDARD STATE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PACKAGE:

**Planned ambulatory healthcare services (funded 70-100%):**

**Doctor-specialists** - the following services are covered:

- 100%: family doctor/nursing services;
- 70%: endocrinologist, oto-rhino-laryngologist, urologist, cardiolo-

gist, neurologist, gynecologist, ophthalmologist;

- 100%: Prophylactic vaccinations considered by the program.

**Instrumental Tests** - the following services are covered:

- 100%: Electrocardiogram;
- 70%: Abdominal Ultrasound;
- 70%: Chest x-ray.

**Laboratory Tests** - the following services are covered:

- 100%: Complete Blood Count (CBC), blood tests for glucose peripherals, cholesterol, creatinine/occult blood analysis, urine analysis, serum lipid test, and Prothrombin time test;
- 70%: liver function tests, thyroid-stimulating hormone -TSH.

**A wide range of Planned Surgery:**

- Including instrumental and laboratory investigations (preoperative, during the operation and postoperative studies) which are related with planned surgery - will be financed 70%. The annual limit is 15,000 Gel.

**Non-surgical treatment of oncological diseases:**

- Chemotherapy, hormone therapy, radiotherapy as well as research and medications which are related to these procedures will be financed 80% (100% in case of minors below 18 years old). The annual limit is 12,000 Gel.

**Delivery:**

- Physiologic delivery: annual limit 500 Gel; Caesarean section: annual limit 800 Gel.
- The package includes 100% coverage of examinations required for the granting of disability status (except for high-tech examinations). Also included is the issuance of medical certificates and conclusions (on diagnosis) and receipts (exceptions are work-related documentation and driving license applications).

## **2. MINIMAL STATE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PACKAGE:**

Those persons, who were involved in a private insurance scheme as of 1 January, 2017, are eligible for the “minimal package” in cases when their contract with the private insurance company is terminated.

The terms and conditions provided by medical services include general practitioner, free nursing services, full financing of blood and urine tests, emergency outpatient and inpatient services for more than 450 specific listed medical conditions defined by the programme (unit limit 15, 000 GEL).

## **3. UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PACKAGES FOR TARGET AGE AND VULNERABLE GROUPS:**

The State Universal Healthcare Programme covers the following vulnerability and age target groups:

- persons with social vulnerability (score 70,000 and below)<sup>1</sup> ;
- children aged 0-5 years;
- women aged 60+ years and men aged 65+ years (retirement/pension age);
- students;
- children (minors under 18 years old) with disabilities; and
- persons with severe disabilities (above 18 years old).

Both age and vulnerability target groups have 100% coverage of programme services (including primary healthcare) with certain limitations indicated in the standard package (described above). In addition,

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<sup>1</sup> The vulnerability target group includes persons with social vulnerability. All other listed groups fall under the age group category.

they are eligible for 100% coverage of ultrasound and x-ray examinations (fluoroscopy, radiography, and mammography). Visits to specialists are free of charge for these groups upon family/village/district doctor's referral.

### **Specific conditions for age target group:**

- planned surgery (including oncological surgery) and non-surgical treatment of oncological diseases is financed 80% (90% in case of the retirement age). Oncological surgery and non-surgical treatment of oncological diseases is covered 100% only in cases of children aged 0-5 years and minors with disabilities. Non-surgical treatment of oncological diseases is covered 80% (90% in case of retirement age). Additional services include computer tomography – covered by 80% (90% in case of retirement age) and medicines with 50% co-payment for children from 0 to 5 years old, with the annual limit 50 GEL and for disabled children, severely disabled adults and retirement age persons annual limit - 100 GEL. Medicines are not covered for students.

### **Specific conditions for vulnerability target group:**

The costs of medicines are reimbursed with an annual limit of 50 GEL, with 50% co-payment. For women above 60 years and men above 65 years, the annual limit is 200 GEL, with 50% co-payment.

### III. ELIGIBILITY FOR SOCIAL VULNERABILITY AND DISABILITY PACKAGE/ALLOWANCE

Persons with stateless status in Georgia and citizens of other states, who at the time of submission of the application have resided permanently and legally on Georgian territory for the last 10 years and have (severe or moderate) disabilities, are eligible to claim for the disability social package (including state allowance). Citizens of other states have to present a certificate proving that they are not receiving any pension in their country of citizenship.

Families residing legally and permanently in Georgia and consider themselves to be in need of assistance due to their socio-economic conditions may apply to the Social Service Agency for registration into the database of socially vulnerable families. For registration a residence permit document must be presented.

#### COVERAGE OF UHC PACKAGES

Medicines are not covered under the standard and minimal packages and are partially covered under the package for target age and vulnerable groups (as described in the Universal Healthcare packages for target age and vulnerable groups).

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

There is no restriction in the choice of medical facilities during an emergency; if services are unavailable the clinic is obliged to refer you to another medical facility. If no identification document is available, any person can be registered as “unknown” in emergencies only.

Urgent outpatient and inpatient services – will be financed 100% for medical cases defined within the programme (more than 450

specific listed medical conditions). Costs for the treatment of any other urgent and emergency condition will be covered 70% (not applicable to the minimal package). The coverage limit of medical costs per case is 15,000 Gel.

Holders of the package for age groups are covered 100% for intensive therapy and critical conditions and are covered 80% (90% in case of retirement age) for all other urgent and emergency medical conditions. Holders of the package for socially vulnerable groups are eligible for 100% coverage for all emergency medical services (both out-patient and in-patient). There is no limit on coverage of medical costs per case for age and vulnerability groups.

#### **IV. SERVICES NOT COVERED BY THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH-CARE PROGRAMME**

**The following services are not covered under any universal healthcare programme package:**

- Medical screening and treatment without a doctor's prescription, self-medication;
- Medical expenses incurred abroad;
- Spa treatments;
- Aesthetic surgery, the treatment for cosmetic purposes;
- Sexual disorders, infertility treatment costs;
- Related costs for specific antiviral treatment of viral hepatitis;
- If the necessity of medical care occurred through self-harm, participation in terrorist or criminal acts, or illegal drug consumption, except in cases of emergency inpatient or outpatient services;
- Planned therapeutically inpatient services;
- Organ transplantation, as well as prosthesis costs.



## **The following services are not covered by the standard/mini- minimal package<sup>2</sup>**

- Therapeutical hospital services, except for certain conditions defined by Program;
- Joint prosthetic replacement (except for traumatic injuries, if the period does not exceed three months and is untreatable), implantation of defibrillators or heart rhythm resynchronizing therapy devices, drug-coated stent;
- Positron emission tomography (PET / CT);
- Operations for errors of refraction, strabismus surgery, laser eye surgery (except for diabetic eye), corneal transplantation;
- Extracorporeal (remote) lithotripsy;
- Ablation.

### **COVERAGE OF INSURANCE PACKAGES**

Dental treatment and eye glasses are not covered under the universal healthcare programme.

<sup>2</sup> Those services may be covered under the Universal Healthcare package for target age and vulnerability groups (with limitations).



## **V. OTHER SPECIFIC HEALTHCARE STATE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO PERSONS WITH RECOGNIZED STATELESS STATUS, REFUGEE OR HUMANITARIAN STATUS AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN GEORGIA.**

1. Early detection of disease and its screening;
2. Immunization;
3. Epidemic supervisory program;
4. Pre-transfusion blood check;
5. Prevention of occupational diseases;
6. Management of infectious diseases;
7. Management of tuberculosis;
8. HIV-infection/AIDs;
9. Maternal and child health<sup>3</sup>;
10. Drug addiction (substance dependence);
11. Mental health;
12. Diabetes management;
13. Childrens' onco-hematology services<sup>4</sup>;
14. Dialysis and kidney transplantation;
15. Palliative care for incurable patients;
16. Treatment of patients with rare diseases and subject to permanent substitution treatment;
17. First aid emergency and medical transportation;
18. Village doctor;
19. Referral services;
20. Promotion of the healthy lifestyle program.

<sup>3</sup> Pregnant women can request antenatal vouchers before week 13 of their pregnancy to benefit from medicines and medical services. They must approach a medical facility before week 13 of pregnancy. In case of delay, a voucher cannot be issued.

<sup>4</sup> 100% coverage in cases of oncological surgery for minors below 18 years.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL: 112 (MULTIPLE LANGUAGE SERVICE)**

#### **1. FOR HEALTHCARE PACKAGE AND MEDICAL INFORMATION:**

**Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied  
Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs**

**24 hour hotline - 1505**

**(Georgian, English and Russian language services)**

**Address: 144 Akaki Tsereteli Avenue, 0112 Tbilisi, Georgia**

#### **2. IF YOU ARE AN ASYLUM-SEEKER, REFUGEE OR HUMANITARIAN STATUS HOLDER AND YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH REGISTRATION OR INTERPRETATION WITH MEDICAL DOCTORS:**

**Division of International Protection of the Migration Depart-  
ment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs**

**Hotline: +995 598 080097**

**Working Hours: 09:00 - 18:00**

**Break Time: 13:00 - 14:00**

**Address: 16 Mikheil Gakhokidze Street, Tbilisi, Georgia**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

### **3. FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE:**

**Rights Georgia**

**Hotline: (+995) 593 111 405**

**Working Hours: 10:00 - 19:00**

**Break Time: 13:00 - 14:00**

**Address: 11a Gakhokidze Stret, 0160 Tbilisi, Georgia**

### **4. FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

**World Vision Georgia**

**Hotline: +995 577045645**

**Working Hours: 10:00 - 19:00**

**Address: 67B Zhiuli Shartava Street, Tbilisi, Georgia**



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