

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 holders 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 the planned ambulatory services, a person should register at any primary healthcare clinic, which is participating in the Universal healthcare programme (provider facility). To register with the clinic, one should present 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



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, cardiologist, 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)¹;
- 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, 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

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

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 the Universal Healthcare 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 HEALTHCARE 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/minimal package²:

- Therapeutical hospital services, except for certain conditions defined by Program;

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

- 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.



**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 health³ ;
10. Drug addiction (substance dependence);
11. Mental health;
12. Diabetes management;
13. Childrens' onco-hematology services⁴ ;
14. Dialysis and kidney transplantation;
15. Palliative care for incurable patients;

³ 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.

⁴ 100% coverage in cases of oncological surgery for minors below 18 years.

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.



VI.

STATE REFERRAL PROGRAM

Brief description

The referral service aims to improve health condition by increasing geographic and financial accessibility of the population. The service aims to provide medical assistance to the population in case of natural disasters, emergencies, citizens affected by conflict and other cases determined by the Government of Georgia.

The program reimburses some of the expenses that are not financed within public healthcare programme.

After applying for the service presenting relevant documentation, the commission led by the Ministry of Health makes the decision on individual basis.

Target groups:

- Citizens of Georgia
- Asylum seekers
- Refugees and Humanitarian status holders
- Stateless persons

Where to apply: The Ministry of Health

Required documents:

The clinic should send the following documentation about the beneficiary to the Ministry of Health

- Copy of ID document
- Health Certificate (Form N100)
- Calculation
- Certificate proving the social status (IDP, Disability, etc.)

Person takes Referral number (from the clinic) to the Ministry of Health ((Didube, Tsereteli Ave.#144))

Funding: The following ratios are applied 30%, 50%, 70% or 100% depending on the medical condition.



VII.**PROVISION OF SPECIFIC MEDICINES
FOR CHRONIC DISEASES****Brief description**

The purpose of the program is to provide medicines for certain chronic diseases by increasing financial accessibility. The program covers following medical conditions:

- Chronic cardiovascular diseases;
- Chronic lung diseases;
- Diabetes (type II);
- Thyroid diseases;
- Epilepsy;
- Parkinson's disease.

Target groups:

- Persons enrolled in the database of socially vulnerable individuals whose score is less than 100 000 (including refugees and humanitarian status holders)
- All asylum seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless persons who:
 - Have reached retirement age;
 - Have a disability status
 - Have been diagnosed with epilepsy in Georgia
 - Have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in Georgia

Where to apply: Social Service Agency

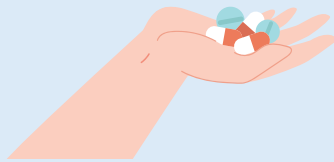
Required documents:

- ID document
- Health certificate (form N100)

Funding:

The persons with social vulnerability, the persons with disability status, and the persons who reached the retirement age (Women – 60 years, Men – 65 Years) will pay 1 Gel to receive the medication.

Persons with epilepsy and Parkinson's disease will benefit from the discount of 75% in purchase of the medicines.

**VIII. PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS****Brief description**

The program aims to reduce the death rate among mothers and newborns, as well as premature births and inborn anomalies by providing effective patronage, highly qualified medical assistance and medications to pregnant women. Following services:

- 8 Antenatal visits
- Examinations
- Screening
- Consultations
- Provision of medicines (before 13 weeks)

Target groups:

All pregnant women with Georgian citizenship or residence permit in Georgia as well as:

- Asylum seekers
- Refugees
- Humanitarian status holders
- Stateless persons

The first visit to a gynaecologist and ultrasound is paid and the price depends on the clinic.

Pregnant women should register before 13 weeks of pregnancy.

Required documents: ID document.

Where to apply: Relevant service providers across Georgia

Funding: Fully covered by state.



IX.

TUBERCULOSIS MANAGEMENT

Brief description

The program is designed to prevent tuberculosis from spreading throughout the community in addition to death as a result of the

infection, resistance to anti-tuberculosis medicines and facilitate increasing access to this service across the country. Following services are covered within the program:

- Diagnosis
- Treatment – Conservative and Surgical
- Examination and prevention of TB patients' family members
- Provision of medicines

NB: Screening for tuberculosis is not covered by the programme

Target groups:

- Citizens of Georgia
- Stateless persons
- All persons infected by Tuberculosis who live in Georgia
- Persons held in pre-trial detention and imprisonment institutions

Where to apply: To receive both inpatient and outpatient treatment, the beneficiary has to approach primary healthcare or Tuberculosis treatment facilities.

Required documents: ID document.

Funding: Fully covered by state.



Brief description

The program aims to identify new cases of HIV/AIDS in a timely manner, curb its spread and ensure access to treatment for patients. The beneficiaries are able to receive the following services:

- Consultation
- Diagnosis
- Doctor's visit to a patient
- Provision of medicines
- Monitoring of C hepatitis treatment
- Treatment to prevent tuberculosis

Target groups:

- Citizens of Georgia
- Asylum Seekers
- Refugees and Humanitarian status holders
- Stateless persons
- Persons under statelessness determination procedure
- Persons at high risk (sex workers, injecting drug addicts, etc.)

Where to apply: Relevant service providers across Georgia

Required documents: ID document.

Funding: Fully covered by state.



XI. DIALYSIS AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

Brief description

The program is designed to retain and improve the health condition of persons with terminal kidney failure. Those with terminal kidney failure and/or who have had organs transplanted are beneficiaries of the program. The following services are offered:

- Examination
- Provision of specific medicines
- Hemodialysis
- Ventricular dialysis
- Kidney transplantation

Target groups:

- Citizens of Georgia
- Asylum seekers
- Refugees and Humanitarian status holders

- Stateless persons
- Persons at penitentiary institutions, despite not having identification documentation as per the legislation.

Where to apply: Social Service Agency

Required documents:

- ID document
- Health certificate issued by the relevant service providers across Georgia

Funding: Fully covered by state.




CONTACT INFORMATION:

Medical Emergency Service: 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. For legal assistance:

Rights Georgia

 **Hotline:** +995 593 111 405

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


 **Address:** 18 Zhiuli Shartava Street, III entrance, 3rd floor, 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia.

3. For Social assistance:

World Vision Georgia

 **Hotline:** +995 577 045 645.

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

 **Address:** 67b . Shartava Street, Tbilisi, Georgia

