

France

Summary

The French health care system is ranked #1 by the World Health organization. It is based on a national social insurance system with elements of tax-based financing and complementary voluntary health insurance which often provided through employers. It is noted for its high level of choice and accessibility for patients and the absence of waiting lists for treatments.

Management

- Health insurance is a branch of the Social Security system.
- The state exercises its trusteeship through central, regional, and departmental services.
- There are two large organizations that work under the Ministry of Health: General Health Management and Hospital and Healthcare Management. Under the direction of these two large organizations are numerous health care facilities and agencies.

Doctors and Hospitals

- In all hospitals, doctors, biologists, and dentists are all paid as “hospital practitioners.”
- 1,032 hospitals in France are public hospitals which include a diverse group of institutions.
- Public hospitals are primarily financed by endowment funding that is paid for by health insurance funds.
- Not-for-profit hospitals make up 14 percent of the inpatient services. They are financed through endowments like public hospitals but have the right to privacy like private clinics.
- Private medical care treats more than 50 percent of surgeries and more than 60 percent of cancer cases.

Role of Employer

- More than 80 percent of French people have supplemental insurance, often provided by their employers.

Role of Individual

- Individuals have the right to choose among healthcare providers, regardless of their income level.

Role of Government

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Who decides Benefits and Service?

- The French government provides a number of diverse and comprehensive healthcare rights.

Universal Coverage

- The French healthcare system permits all French citizens access to treatment and to the latest discoveries in medical research.

Financing

- Health insurance is funded by worker's salaries (60 percent), indirect taxes on alcohol and tobacco, and direct contribution paid by all revenue proportional to income (including retirement pensions and capital revenues).
- Low income population have free universal healthcare which is financed by taxes.

Health Care Insurance Premiums

- Medical care is either entirely free or is reimbursed completely for more than 96 percent of the population.