



HEALTH INSURANCE  
FUND OF MACEDONIA

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**Date:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

## COMMUNICATION

Orthopaedic medical aids will be issued in 332 pharmacies with which the Fund concluded a contract through public procurement calls, correspondingly. The Health Insurance Fund enables execution of the right to use orthopaedic medical aids which annually allocates a significant amount of funds, providing 406 types of orthopaedic and other medical devices, or 1,210 devices from different manufacturers. As of October 31, 2016, the Fund had concluded contracts with 31 companies for handling orthopaedic aids on the territory of Macedonia, which have a network of 111 specialized shops. The funds for orthopaedic aids allocated by the Fund are increasing yearly, and in 2016 this amount reached 550 million denars. The Health Insurance Fund makes regular checks on the work of the medical institutions and legal entities with which it concluded contracts. The performed inspection of the orthopaedic companies with which the Fund cooperates, and the cross-checks carried out through the electronic system revealed that 6 companies show irregularities and violations of the provisions of the agreement with the Fund. From the completed inspection, according to the contractual obligations, as of 31.10.2016, the Fund terminated contracts with 6 companies for handling orthopaedic devices in which irregularities had been found in the operation.

In order to ensure continued supply of the insured citizens with orthopaedic aids the Fund decided to increase the distribution network of suppliers of orthopaedic aids and devices. According to the Law on medicines and medical aids, as well as the Regulation on orthopaedic devices of the Health Insurance Fund, on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Fund announced a public call for the conclusion of agreements on supplying orthopaedic aids with PHI pharmacies and other companies handling orthopaedic aids which concluded a contract with the Fund. We are pleased to inform you that upon closing of the open call, the Fund signed agreements with 91 new legal entities which have 332 pharmacies or points of sale on the entire territory of the Republic of Macedonia, for specific types of orthopaedic medical aids. So far, the largest distributor for orthopaedic aids had only 16 branches in 14 cities, and now they extended their availability in all cities in the country. For example, to obtain adult diapers for disabled persons, as the most frequently used medical aid, insured citizens from other Macedonian cities needed to travel each month to a neighbouring town to get the necessary amount of diapers. From now on, the insured can obtain diapers at the local pharmacy in the city where they live. This way we overcome the problem which has been slipping for years, through enabling distribution of orthopaedic aids to smaller places in the country.

Until now the insured could obtain these aids in 14 cities, and from now on, with the conclusion of new agreements with PHI pharmacies, it was made possible for them to obtain the prescribed orthopaedic devices in the following 29 cities: Berovo, Bitola, Makedonski Brod, Valandovo, Veles, Vinica, Gevgelija, Gostivar, Debar, Delchevo, Demir Hisar, Kavadarci, Kichevo, Kochani, Kratovo, Kriva Palanka, Krushevo, Kumanovo, Negotino, Ohrid, Prilep, Radovish, Resen, Sveti Nikole, Skopje, Struga, Strumica, Tetovo and Stip.



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Additionally, with the new contract we have arranged provisions which strengthen the control mechanism and penalty provisions that aim to prevent any possible errors or abuses. We have to note that the last public call did not secure any distribution contracts for a small portion of the range of orthopaedic aids regarding those individual orthopaedic aids to which the insured are entitled to by law and by-laws of the Fund, and therefore we have reorganized the regional services which enable reimbursement of the funds for procurement of such aids within one week. If the Fund determines a requisite for a specific orthopaedic aid that is not offered by the legal entity the Fund has concluded an agreement with, then, it may re-publish a public call for this specific aid, for which we shall schedule a public call in the near future. The Health Insurance Fund of the Republic of Macedonia remains true to its commitment to provide better health services to its insured citizens.