

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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**Abstract:** Many references have been made to the concept of Public Health, focused not only on the economy of health but also on medical ethics. Here are presented the efforts made by different countries in terms of health reform, the sums of money spent for health, the objectives of the WHO programme - Health for everybody until 2000.

**Keywords:** Public Health, reform, investments, Social Medicine

**Rezumat:** Se fac referiri la: Conceptul de de Sănătate Publică, centrat atât pentru economia sănătății, cât și pentru etica medicală. Se discută despre eforturile pe care le fac statele pentru reforma sanitară, despre sumele de bani folosite pentru sănătate, despre obiectivele programului O.M.S. - Sănătatea pentru toți până în anul 2000.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Sănătate Publică, reformă, investiții, Medicină Socială

„Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease nor the absence of infirmity” (WHO Constitution) (1).

According to L. Pierre – Noel (1970)-Public Health Administrator, Professor of Social Medicine within the Faculty of Medicine of the National University of Rwanda -, „Public Health is an individual discipline, comprising precepts such as:

- Clinical medicine
- Public hygiene
- Preventive medicine
- Social medicine

According to Dan Enăchescu – Public Health represents the ensemble of skills, attitudes and knowledge of the population oriented towards health improvement and maintenance.

Health makes part of an essential problem of human survival.

- Health is a fundamental right of the man;
- Health is a good that is irremediably lost;
- Health is a value of human existence;
- Health is an obligation of a group, a political will and of the individual;

- The reconsideration of the equality of chances of all people against life quality and social and economic discrepancies means going back to the black époque of the evolution of society;

- Health is the universal value of human existence.

Health represents a function of preoccupations and educational level of the individual and of the society and it is not only a function of medical care.

The relation between demand and offer in case of health market is due to the stimulus of the specific means for providing health.

Health concept is focused both on health economy and on medical ethics.

Liviu Drăguș in „Health Management”, ed. Sedcom Libris Iași 2002 reveals the sums of money in dollars paid by the developed countries in 1989 for health care services (Prof. Dr. Liviu Vulcu-Management Sanitar vol.I-Ed. Universității Lucian Blaga Sibiu - 2006-pg.30.) (Sanitary Management, tome I, Publishing House of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, 2006, page 30).

**Table no. 1. The sums of money in dollars paid by the developed countries in 1989 for health care services**

USA	2354	Japan	1035
Switzerland	1376	Belgium	980
Sweden	1371	Denmark	912
France	1274	Great Britain	836
Norway	1234	Ireland	658
Germany	1232	Spain	464
Holland	1135	Portugal	463
Austria	1053	Greece	371
Italy	1050		

Regarding the reform made by the world states, it is necessary to: - release the resources from hospitals for the improvement of the quality of the care services at the level of the entire health system and the use of the hospital services as an option of last analysis.

Distinction will be made between hospital requirements and the rehabilitation requirements.

The continuation of the financing reform in Eastern Europe is 5 to 10 times more reduced than of the Occident.

But in any better situation, we must take into account the population's morbidity, the risk factors (environment, modern life, social condition etc.)

Governments are liable for peoples' health; they cannot face them unless taking the corresponding sanitary and social measures.

A normal public politics and an active cooperation from the part of the public area are of major importance for the improvement of the populations' health (2).

Public Health is a science of social action, of community, economic and sanitary action (3).

Public Health includes the **Social Medicine** (terminology which was launched for the first time in 1848 by Jules Guerin), designating a link between medicine and society (according to the socio-economic determinism of medicine, the disease is a social phenomenon).(4)

Out of those 38 objectives of the WHO programme "Health for all until 2000", there are 5 provisions that decide upon a healthy lifestyle through:

- A public politics according to the imperatives of health based on legislative, administrative and financial measures, with a view to promote health;
- Health promotion in all life environments and social activity;
- The physical activity, the improvement of knowledge, nutritional equilibrium, motivations of the individual in respect of health and intersectorial action;
- The accomplishment of the anticipated equilibrium regarding the curative activity and the prophylactic activity;
- The development of competences in terms of health through: lifestyle hygiene, information, education.

Jakarta Declaration (4 July 1997) states that the decision makers must be firmly committed to social responsibility. Both the public and private sectors should promote health by pursuing policies and practices that safeguard the individual in his workplace and in life. (5).

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