

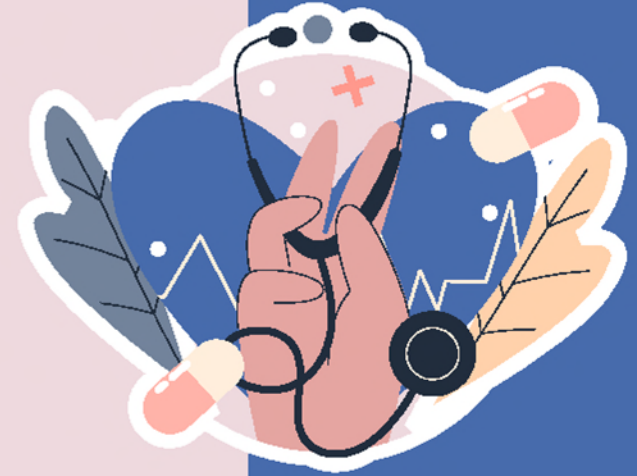


Symposium of the Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians (ZEVA)

Case report Republic of North Macedonia

7 - 9 September 2023 - Dusseldorf

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Themes of country report

1. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school
2. CAM (complementary and alternative medicine and role of the medical chambers
3. Opportunities and challenges of new medical assistance professions



01. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school

Basic legal framework

01 Law on Higher Education Act on Norms and Standards for

02 Establishment of Institutions
for Performing Higher Education

03 Standards and Norms for Establishment
of Institutions and Performing Higher
Education



01. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school

Responsible institutions for the accreditation

01 Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia

02 Government of Republic of North Macedonia

03 Ministry for Education and Science

04 Accreditation Board



01. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school

Three medical schools

Faculty of Medicine, University
“Goce Delchev”, Shtip

01 Faculty of Medicine, University
“Ss. Cyril and Methodius”, 02
Skopje

03 Faculty of Medicine, University of
Tetovo



01. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school

Shortage of physicians

- According to the State Statistical Office, the number of physicians in RNM has increased from 2,7 per 1.000 residents in 2010 to 3,4 per 1.000 residents in 2021
- RNM has been also included in the process of migration of the medical staff, but with regard to the physicians, the standing of the Chamber is that at present, a larger problem is their distribution



01. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school

Is there a plan in your Country to increase the number of medical students? Do you have any private medical schools?

- The Faculty of Medicine, University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius”, Skopje and the Faculty of Medicine, University “Goce Delchev”, Shtip both have studies in general medicine in English language.
- In academic year 2023/24 are enrolled 530 students with additional 180 who would study in English language
- This year, in June, the Government of RNM has brought a decision for founding a Faculty of Health Sciences under the private institution for higher education International University “Vision”, Gostivar, but this institution is still in the process of accreditation



01. Basic medical training and quality assurance in the establishment of the new medical school

Is your Chamber involved in the discussions?

- The Doctor's Chamber does not have any legal authorisations for participation in the planning process for new faculties of medicine, neither in the decision making on the number of students

02. Complementary and alternative medicine and the role of the Medical Chamber





- Law on Complementary and Alternative Medicine was brought in 2015
- Manual for required space, equipment and professional staff for foundation, working and providing services in the field of CAM in facilities for complementary and alternative medicine” was also brought
- Apart from the initial establishment of the CAM, and its integration in the existing healthcare system, its role still remains not completely defined.





The methodology and procedures of the alternative medicine are taught on two universities:

Faculty of Pharmacy, University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius”, Skopje with:

- Study program – Specialist studies in Phytotherapy (accredited in 2014)
- Study program – Specialist studies in Phytotherapy - Herbal Medications of food supplements (accredited in 2018)



Faculty of Medicine – University “Goce Delchev”, Ship with:

- Specialist studies in Traditional Chinese Medicine (accredited in 2022)



- ✓ The Doctor's Chamber of RNM at present is not part of the system for organisation and control over CAM.
- ✓ The necessity to strengthen the system still persists in terms of control mechanisms to protect the patients from inappropriate and ineffective treatment procedures as well as to protect the facilities that comply with the required working conditions from unfair competition.



- ✓ There is serious doubt that major part of the facilities that practice CAM work without permissions since they are detected in numerous places while the Ministry of Health by July of the current year has issued only 6 certificates and another 3 are still in procedure of issuing.
- ✓ Some facilities practice manipulative and aggressive advertising



✓ The control over these facilities is the responsibility of the Commission for control of the condition compliance of CAM facilities, established by the Ministry of Health and the State Sanitary Inspectorate



✓ A separate system for protection from misinformation does not exist, but the Law on CAM forbids delusional advertising, which is defined as advertising that contains excessive or similar elements of the effects of CAM methodology and procedures that in any way including its presentation leads to misinformation or possible misinformation the potential beneficiaries of CAM, and that shall, due to its deceiving nature, affect their financial behaviour with a purpose of achieving a financial gain for the service provider.



Related to advertising, a major problem we are facing is the abuse of the identity and professional integrity of doctors for advertising certain unapproved medicines or supplements that are advertised as „miracle“ cure for many diseases. In advertising texts, doctors are presented as persons who give positive recommendations for the use of a certain medication, although they did not give such consent. Criminal charges have been filed for these cases, but there is still no specific reaction from the competent institutions.



03. Opportunities and challenges of new medical assistance professions

New specialised profiles of new medical assistance professions are continuously being introduced in our country. This is usually done by introducing the second degree of studies at the faculties where they are educated and complete their undergraduate studies. Thus, for example, nurses specialised in intensive care are introduced.

The programs they study are under the jurisdiction of the faculties, the Ministry of Education and the Accreditation Board.

The Doctor's chamber is not involved in these processes.



THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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