

PATRONAGE SERVICES IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTERS AND COVERAGE OF DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS IN SERBIA DURING PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS (2018 TO 2022)

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Background: In everyday life, it is considered that patronage services are delivered only to newborns and women who had given birth. Ministry of Health and Health Insurance Fund (HIF) regulated, that patronage should deliver services at least once a year, to small children at second and fourth year of life, pregnant women, women with high risk pregnancy if it is indicated by their gynecologist, as well as to adult population (19+) if it is indicated by their general practitioner including elderly people (65+) and persons with invalidity. This study aimed to analyze coverage of different age population groups in Serbia, with patronage preventive services in the Primary health care centers (PHCC) from 2018 to 2022.

Methods: We used data obtained from HIF, as reports of patronage services from 2018 to 2022, through invoiced realization of health services of all primary health care centers in Serbia.

Results: Data from five years (2018-2022) shows that newborns (including their mothers) as well as women with high risk pregnancy had the highest coverage by patronage services. For newborns those data ranged from 86% in 2018 to 97% in 2022, and for women with high risk pregnancy those data ranged from 92% in 2018 to 72% in 2022. Among other population groups, it is noticeable that adults (19+) and elderly people (65+) are less covered by patronage services. Those data showed that for elderly people (65+) coverage was less than 20%, while for adults (19+) was less than 10% in observed five years period. As we don't know the number of persons with invalidity, we couldn't analyze coverage of that group by patronage services.

Conclusions:

If we exclude newborns and women who had given birth as well as women with high risk pregnancy, other population groups are not sufficiently covered by patronage services.

Keywords: Patronage services, Basic health care services, Primary health care, Health care regulations, Health needs