



ФОНД ЗА ЗДРАВСТВЕНО  
ОСИГУРУВАЊЕ НА МАКЕДОНИЈА  
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## PRESS CONFERENCE

### Electronic certificates for blood donors

The electronic certificates for the blood donors is a project of the Government of Republic of Macedonia, implemented by the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia for the purpose of providing facilities for the insureds – blood donors who have donated at least 10 times blood in their lives, thus attaining the blood donor status and thereby, in accordance with the Government Programme, the right to be exempted from co-payment for health services.

Until now, upon donating their blood, the insureds had to bring the certificate from the Transfusiology Institute to the regional offices of the Fund, in order to be issued paper certificates exempting them from the co-payment. Then, they had to bring with them the paper certificate as proof for each calculation for health services provided.

The purpose of this Project is to introduce a new electronic system envisaging the creation of a database or registry of blood donors in the Republic of Macedonia. To this end, the Fund established collaboration with the Institute of Transfusion Medicine, which under the existing legislation is the competent institution for collecting data on blood donors.

With great pleasure, we would like to inform you that as of today, all public health institutions will be able to check whether the insured is a blood donor via the Fund's web-portal. This novelty, presented today, means relief for the insureds and shortening of the bureaucratic procedures. Additionally, it means saving time and no more waiting at counters. Currently, there are over 30.000 insureds-blood donor, who no longer need to visit the branch office to obtain the paper certificate. However, this is a dynamic process and every new blood donor, who has donated blood more than 10 times, will be automatically entered in the registry.

The implementation of the project took place in several stages and lasted for six months. The first phase included development of the project plan and the implementation schedule, that is to say, the timeframes for the preparatory work were defined, whereas the second phase covered the operational and organizational measures, that is to say, blood donors data entry by the centres of the Institute for Transfusion Medicine. The third phase entailed regulation of the legal aspects for the project implementation and verification of the functionality of the software application, that is to say, the registry.

The Project commenced by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine on the exchange of blood donor data, for co-payment exemption for all types of health services in the primary and secondary healthcare protection, except for co-payment for primary care dentists, prescription medicines, and treatment abroad.



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The final implementation phase was the electronic blood donor certificate, allowing the registration and overview of all blood donors, who have acquired the right to be exempted from co-payment. This registry is a database is available to all healthcare workers in the healthcare institutions that have entered into contacts with the Fund, and have access to the Fund's web-portal.

In short, an authorized person from the Institute of Transfusion Medicine, who has been previously registered in the HIFM's system, and has been granted access to the Registry, enters the persons therein on the day they have acquired the right to co-payment exemption, that is to say, who have donated blood for the tenth time. This entered data are then verified with the digital certificate of the electronic health card of the authorized person, and are made available in real time, in the profile of the insured, and in the profile of its primary healthcare physician.

We believe that this Project is another step forward in simplifying the procedures for exercising the right of insureds. This means data accuracy, minimizing potential errors and abuses, real data that will be basis for comprehensive analyses of good healthcare policies.