

(e) 1995: Prime Minister's Office Decree No 52/1995: on Medical Services

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity
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Prime Minister's Office

No.: 52./PMO

Prime Ministerial Decree
on
Medical Services

- Whereas the Fifth Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress passed a resolution on free medical healthcare
- Pursuant to the proposal by the Minister of Public Health

The Prime Minister issues a Decree:

CHAPTER I

General Provisions

- Article 1: All existing government officials and retired government officials who need to have a check up and/or treatment shall receive free services.
- Article 2: Children under 18 years, of existing government officials and retired government officials who need to have a check up and/or treatment shall also receive free healthcare, as will their spouses (this policy will apply only to those not in employment by an outside organization).
- Article 3: Students, Buddhist monks and novices and needy people or low-income people shall be also given this privilege.
- Article 4: With the exception of those specified in Articles 1, 2 and 3, all others, including businesspersons, stall traders, labourers and freelance workers, must pay for medical services.
- Article 5: In every case of either chronic illness or acute illness, all patients should present at State health care centres and hospitals.

CHAPTER II

Calculating Proportion and payment

- Article 6: The level of medical service charges shall be calculated based on:
1. Registration form fee
 2. Other costs of materials
 3. Analysis, X-ray and other technical examination cost
 4. Medicine and drug costs
 5. Artificial body organ or transplant cost
 6. Treatment cost (operation, sauna, massage, physiotherapy, acupuncture, etc.)
 7. Accommodation cost.
- Article 7: In order to provide the most effective service to all patients, every hospital should:
1. Arrange suitable rooms for specific patients
 2. Deliver good quality service, check-up and treatment in every case
 3. Establish a recognised accounting system

CHAPTER III

Action Areas

- Article 8: Payment for medical services, from central level down to provincial levels and local levels, shall be in accordance with the budgets of health care centres as approved by the Ministry of Public Health.
Medical check-up and accommodation in local health care centres and villages' medical centres shall be free of charge, excluding materials, drugs and medicines.

CHAPTER IV**Documentary Evidence Needed to Secure Free Service**

In order to have free check up and treatment, patients must produce the following:

- Article 9:** Government officials must bring their money books of 6% deduction. Retired government officials must bring their retirement cards.
- Article 10:** Low-income people must bring an official letter proved and issued by village heads or the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare or the Department of Labour and Social Welfare.
- Article 11:** Students, Buddhist monks and novices must bring their ID cards or any official documents issued by the relevant organizations.

CHAPTER V**Proportion and Payment**

- Article 12:** The Office of Social Security shall be responsible for paying patients' cost, as aforementioned in Article 1. Payment procedure shall be based on the regulations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
- Article 13:** The Ministry of Finance shall make budgetary allocations for hospitals at every level. The money shall be used specifically for the patients targeted in Articles 2 and 3. The Ministry of Public Health shall be responsible for planning the annual budget.
- Article 14:** In order to bring all payments into a single system, the Ministry of Public Health shall inform the Ministry of Finance on the levels of service charge set out in Article 6 Chapter II. The Ministry of Finance shall make a deduction of 20% from check up fees and treatment fees against the budget. The remaining budget shall be as in the plan. In case that it is insufficient, the government shall make an allocation in order to meet the deficiency.

CHAPTER VI**Final Provisions**

- Article 15:** The Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare shall be responsible for promoting this Decree and issuing notifications and directions to all hospitals, Medical Institutes, Departments of Public Health, and Departments of Labour and Social Welfare, from central level down to grass-roots level, in order to ensure that this Decree is firmly implemented.
- Article 16:** The Prime Minister's Office, Ministries, relevant organisations and local authorities shall have the duty and responsibility to implement in accordance with their various roles.
- Article 17:** This Prime Ministerial Decree shall come into force immediately after the date of signature.

Vientiane, date of 26 June 1995
(signature)
Khamtay Siphandone
The Prime Minister of Lao PDR