

Features of the development of private healthcare in Uzbekistan

Kamron Musurmon ugli Abdisayitov
Sherzod Farxodovich Majidov
ijtimoiy.km@umail.uz
Samarkand State Medical University

Abstract: The paper examines the features and role of private medical institutions in Uzbekistan, reveals the features of government support for the development of this sector in the republic.

Keywords: healthcare, private clinics, customs privileges, medical care, benefits, preferences, competition, quality of life

In foreign countries, private clinics play a crucial role in the healthcare system, especially in developed countries with capitalist economies. Their activities cover a wide range of medical services, from outpatient diagnostics and counseling to complex surgical procedures and long-term rehabilitation. In comparison with public institutions, private clinics are focused on high customer orientation, comfort, modern equipment and individual approach to the patient, as they need to compete with other private clinics.

In European countries, such as Germany and Switzerland, private medicine is deeply integrated into the compulsory health insurance system. Patients can freely choose between public and private institutions, and the costs are usually covered by insurance companies. Private clinics in these countries are renowned for their high level of service.: short waiting times, the latest diagnostic methods, highly qualified professional doctors, flexible approach to appointment schedules. They are also actively implementing digital technologies such as electronic patient records, telemedicine, online recording and remote consultations.

In the United States, the private medical sector is the backbone of the entire healthcare system. Most clinics and hospitals are owned by private companies, foundations, or universities. There are many forms of private practice, from individual medical offices to multidisciplinary hospitals. Financing takes place through private insurance programs, as well as directly at the expense of patients. This model has made it possible to achieve a high technological level, widespread use of robotic surgery, genetic diagnostics, proton therapy and other advanced methods. However, there remains a big problem of accessibility - lack of insurance or insufficient coverage often causes patients to refuse treatment.

In post-Soviet countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan and Georgia, private medicine is rapidly developing due to reforms of the state system. Private clinics here usually offer paid services that exceed the quality and speed of public services. Despite the lack of full-fledged insurance coverage for private medicine, the growing solvency of the population and high competition contribute to improving the service. It is often private institutions that are the first to innovate, purchase new equipment, and train staff abroad.

In addition to treatment, foreign private clinics are actively engaged in the prevention, management of chronic diseases, aesthetic medicine, sports rehabilitation and psychotherapy. Many of them are accredited according to international quality standards (for example, JCI), participate in scientific research and work in collaboration with universities and pharmaceutical companies.

Thus, private medicine abroad is not just an alternative to public medicine - it is a full-fledged and highly effective part of healthcare aimed at achieving the best results in treatment and patient satisfaction. It is developing due to flexibility, modern technologies, powerful insurance support and a high level of public trust.

Next, we give an example of the development of the private medical sector in Uzbekistan, which, against the background of ongoing government reforms, is rising to higher levels of development by introducing more and more advanced technologies and treatment methods.

The development of the private sector is one of the key factors in the radical transformation of any sphere, and healthcare, which is currently at this stage, is no exception. Population growth, the high rate of technological progress and increasing demands on the quality of services often lead to the fact that public health systems are under high strain, which is why innovative solutions, adaptability and efficiency of the private sector are becoming increasingly in demand.

Today, private medicine provides a wide range of services, ranging from consultations with specialists of a narrow profile to complex high-tech operations. Competition between private medical institutions stimulates the development and improvement of the quality of services, thereby contributing to the improvement of the entire healthcare system.

Private medicine is also actively developing in Uzbekistan, as evidenced, among other things, by the opening of many new private clinics and medical centers in recent years.

If in 2017 the number of private medical organizations in our country was 3,200, by now this figure has increased 2.7 times and reached 8,560. Every year, the number of private medical institutions increases by an average of 600-700. In particular, the number of such institutions in Tashkent has already exceeded 1,700, in Andijan - 750, in Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Tashkent regions - 650. Today, more than 17,000

doctors and 27,000 average medical professionals work in the private medical sector. There are about 166 hospitals in the country with the participation of business circles from more than twenty foreign countries.

It is worth noting that over the past period, the number of licensed medical specialties allowed for private medical organizations has increased from 50 to 126. The range of medical services provided in private medical organizations has significantly expanded, from 726 to 2251 types. The number of inpatient beds in private clinics has increased 2.8 times.

Thus, the share of private medicine in the healthcare system has increased to almost 30 percent. This figure is expected to reach 50 percent by 2030.

In terms of medical fields, this figure is 50 percent in urology and interventional cardiology, 60 percent in endoprosthetics, 70 percent in endoscopic gynecology and ENT, and about 90 percent in dentistry.

Moreover, today more than 50 percent of high-tech operations in pediatric and adult urology, interventional cardiology, endoprosthetics, endoscopic gynecology, ophthalmology, medical radiology, and clinical and biochemical research are conducted in the private medical sector.

Such a rapid growth in the number of private medical organizations and the range of medical services indicate that there is a favorable climate for the development of private medicine in Uzbekistan.

There are also multiple benefits for private medicine.

1. Tax benefits: Until January 1, 2022, private medical institutions whose main activity is the provision of medical services (except dentistry and cosmetology) were exempt from all types of taxes.

These funds could be used to purchase and maintain modern equipment, repair and build buildings, and provide free medical treatment to socially vulnerable groups.

Also, in rural areas, medical micro-firms and small businesses were exempt from taxes for 10 years from the date of registration.

2. Customs privileges

The import of medical equipment, instruments and consumables is exempt from customs duties and VAT. This allows clinics to purchase modern equipment without increasing the cost.

One of the key areas of government support for emergency healthcare has become exemption from taxes and customs duties on imports of medical equipment and supplies. This gives private clinics the opportunity to modernize their technical base, increase the level of service and introduce modern treatment methods. At the same time, the state clearly defines the social function of private medicine: in exchange for preferences, clinics are required to provide free care to the most vulnerable segments of the population, including the disabled, the elderly, orphans and war veterans. Such

a system creates a balance between the commercial interests of private business and the public need for affordable medical care.

The private sector also benefits from simplifying licensing procedures, reducing bureaucratic barriers, and expanding the list of permitted activities. All this stimulates the inflow of investments, the opening of new clinics, especially in the regions, and the increasing competitiveness of medical services. However, along with the growth of opportunities, requirements are also growing: clinics working with social groups must meet certain standards of equipment, personnel training and sanitary conditions, which is an important factor in ensuring the quality and safety of medical care.

Summing up, we note that private medicine in Uzbekistan today occupies an increasingly important place in the country's healthcare system and is gradually becoming an integral part of the general medical care of the population. Its development is taking place against the background of a purposeful government policy aimed at improving the quality of medical services, expanding their accessibility and introducing modern diagnostic and treatment technologies. The government actively supports the private medical sector by providing it with tax and customs privileges, simplifying licensing, and creating conditions for the introduction of new forms of interaction between public and private institutions. Private medicine in Uzbekistan is developing in a favorable regulatory environment and government support. Its potential lies not only in expanding the range of paid services, but also in fulfilling an important social role - helping those who are particularly in need of medical care. By maintaining this balance between business and humanity, private medicine can become the backbone of a country's sustainable and modern healthcare system.

References

1. Naimjanova, P.U., Sobirjonova, M.J., Majidov, S.F. (2021). On the history of the formation of the world and national school of pedagogical cardiology. *Science and Education*, 2(11), 970-976.
2. Djuraev, D.R., Majidov, Sh.F. (2021). *Nekotorye voprosy ucheniya Aristotelya ob ekonomike i xrematistike*. *Science and Education*, 2(5), 1022-1026.
3. Majidov, Sh.F. (2014). *Konfliktnost etnokulturnykh protsessov epokhi globalizatsii v kontekste ucheniya P. Sorokina. Sorokina/Pitirim Sorokin i paradigmy globalnogo razvitiya XXI veka (k 125-letiyu so dnya rojdeniya)*. Syktyvkar, 601-606.
4. Majidov Sh. (2015). *Razvitie etnokulturnykh protsessov v sentralnoy Azii i sentralnoy Yevrope: sravnitelnyy analiz //Obshchestvo i etnopolitika*. – 2015. – S. 352-356.
5. Majidov Sh.F. (2014). *K voprosu ob etnokulturnykh protsessakh v sentralnoy Azii i Yevropeyskom Soyuze //Yevraziystvo: teoreticheskiy potentsial i prakticheskie prilozheniya*. – 2014. – №. 7. – S. 238-243.

6. Davranov, E.A., Majidov, Sh.F. (2021). *Filosofiya meditsiny i meditsinskiy vzglyad na filosofiyu*. Science and Education, 2(5), 826-832.
7. Majidov Sh.F. (2016). *Razvitie grazhdanskoy kultury skvoz prizmu modernizatsii obrazovaniya (na primere Respubliki Uzbekistan) //Aktualnye problemy sotsiologii kultury, obrazovaniya, molodeji i upravleniya*. – 2016. – S. 585-589.
8. Majidov Sh.F. (2020). *On the issue of ethnopolitical aspects of national security //Mejdunarodnyy jurnal Konsensus*. – 2020. – T. 1. – №. 2.
9. Majidov, Sh.F. (2020). *Milliy havfsizlikni etnosiyosiy jihatlar: YeI tajribasi (2000-yillar boshi). Vzglyad v proshloe, (SI-1№ 2)*.
10. Majidov, Sh.F. (2017). *K voprosu ob etnokulturnoy bezopasnosti (na primere sentralnoy Azii). In Vlast v logike i ritorike mejnatsionalnykh i mejkonnatsionalnykh otnosheniy (pp. 78-81)*.
11. Majidov, Sh.F., Saidova, X. (2007). *Reformy v sfere obrazovaniya i lichnost prepodavatelya. Obrazovanie cherez vsyu jizn: nepreryvnoe obrazovanie v interesax ustoychivogo razvitiya*, 5, 225-225.
12. Majidov S.F., Karimova R. (2022). *The formation of dentistry as a science: international and national experience. Thematics Journal of History*, 8(1).
13. Ibragimov, B.D., Majidov, Sh.F. (2022). *Stanovlenie stomatologii kak professii i nauchnoy dissipliny*. Science and Education, 3(11), 237-247.
14. Xaydarova, D. S., Umarova, M. M., Oripova, D. A., Majidov, S. F. (2023). *Euthanasia as a humanistic problem in modern medicine*. Science and Education, 4(11), 57-64.
15. Mamatmurodova, D. A., O'tkir qizi O'ktamova, R., & Majidov, S. F. (2024). *Foreign experience of financing the health care sector: budget model*. Science and Education, 5(2), 701-707.
16. Daniyarov, S. O., qizi Toshtemirova, G. B., & Majidov, S. F. (2024). *Some aspects of the insured medical system and lessons from foreign experience*. Science and Education, 5(2), 694-700.