

Services Provided by MOPH to Elderly Population



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through the Chronic Disease Medicine Program. The program, financed by the MOPH and managed by the YMCA, was launched by the MOPH in the early 1990s to assist low income households in accessing chronic medications. The medications are distributed across 440 dispensaries, PHCs and other outlets. The total budget of the program is 10 billion LP including 3.9 billion/ year paid by the MOPH for drug procurement. While the program targets populations of all age groups, numbers show that 60% of the beneficiaries are elderly⁴.

Hospitalization

The Ministry of Public Health acts as an “insurer of the last resort” for patients who have no other form of insurance. As such, the uninsured elderly population in Lebanon is covered by the ministry’s hospitalization scheme. The ministry covers both inpatient (hospitalization and surgery) and outpatient (CT scans, MRIs, PET scans, radiotherapy for cancer patients, hearing aids and prosthetics) services. The ministry also covers expenses for three curative services common among elderly patients: kidney dialysis, open heart surgery and cancer treatment.⁵

Nursing homes

There are 36 nursing homes in Lebanon that are privately owned for profit or non-profit institutions. The institutions are distributed across all 6 governorates and house around 1.3% of the total elderly population in the country. For poor and dependent patients, the MOPH covers a fixed rate of 250\$ per month of the nursing home fee⁶ but only for

While the population of Lebanon is relatively young, a decrease in the fertility rate and an increase in life expectancy indicate that Lebanon is a rapidly aging country¹. The latest national statistics show that the elderly population (65+) in Lebanon represents 10% of the population², and it is expected to rise to 17% in the next 10 years. To cover the uninsured elderly, which represent half of the total elderly population of Lebanon³, the MOPH provides health services through provision of chronic medications, primary health care services, hospitalization, and partially covering the cost of nursing homes.

Primary Health Care

All elderly patients have access to primary health care services including doctor consultations, laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging at a reduced cost at any of the MOPH’s 210 Primary Health Care centers (PHCs) in the National Primary Healthcare Network.

Chronic medication

Elderly patients also have access to chronic medications

1- Aging in Lebanon challenges and opportunities.

2- Central administration for statistics

3- National Health Statistics Report

4- Older population in Lebanon Facts and Prospects

5- Population ageing in Lebanon: current status, future prospects and implications for policy

6- Health care for older persons a country profile



71.4% of these institutions⁷.

Other projects

100% Hospital Coverage for 64+ Lebanese

The MOPH launched in 2016 a project aiming at comprehensive (100%) hospitalization coverage for all Lebanese elderly over the age of 64 to cover three main elderly needs: chronic diseases, cancer and non-treatable diseases, and Alzheimer’s, Parkinson and osteoporosis. Physical therapy, nursing care at home, psychological support services and other diagnostic services are also covered under this initiative.

64+ Elderly Preventive Packages for Poor Lebanese

The MOPH also provides essential health care packages for free to 150,000 Lebanese with limited income under its Emergency Primary Health Care Restoration Project towards Universal Health Coverage project. Among these packages is the elderly 64+ package which includes immunization, laboratory tests, consultations, radiology, etc... The MOPH plans on expanding this package to the rest of the population.

References

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7. Naja, N. (2012). *Long term stay institutions in Lebanon*. *Lebanese Medical Journal*, 60(4), 252-256

7- Long-term stay institutions in Lebanon.