

DECALOGUE FOR IMPROVING HEALTHCARE IN ROMANIA

MOTIVATION

As a result of the present public health crisis, the need to reshape the Romanian healthcare system is even more obvious. The signatories of this appeal have a deep knowledge of the Romanian healthcare system and its needs and request all political parties in Romania, as well as governmental authorities, to urgently initiate, before the end of 2021, the following reforms that will bring actual improvements in the life of patients, healthcare professionals and any other citizen who needs health services in Romania.

THE FUNDAMENTALS

Romania needs a new national health strategy that is adopted across political parties and that includes realistic, specific objectives, that directly reflect the real health and financial protection needs of the population, objectives that can be achieved with the predicted available resources.

This national health strategy needs to consider prevention services for the healthy population, curative medical services for the ailing citizens and palliation services for the citizens that suffer from end-stage chronic diseases.

At the same time, this national health strategy needs to be based on an evaluation of the normative costs of health services, at the average standard in the European Union, following multi-annual budgetary planning.

Urgently implementing the following measures, in a time span of 18 months, can trigger a positive domino effect for the whole Romanian healthcare system and have a beneficial effect for everyone.

OUR REQUESTS

1. **STOP POLITICAL CRONYISM** in the healthcare system by organizing public competitions for management positions which should be transparent, open for any professional and based on objective criteria, alongside publication of the performance indicators and yearly performance assessments.
2. Set a multi-annual **INVESTMENT** plan for the public healthcare system, based on the real needs of local communities. The first step is logging the available material and human resources of the hospitals that function under the jurisdiction of local and central authorities, mandatorily abiding to the principle of transparency for income and expenditure.
3. Improve access to health services for Romanians living in the **RURAL** areas and for the vulnerable communities. The authorities must uphold, not only verbally, but by creating a favorable legislative framework, already existing initiatives that so far have been either ignored or severely underfinanced:
 - The network of community-based healthcare services;
 - Organizations that provide medical and palliative care at home;
 - Medical caravans in disadvantaged areas;
 - Rebuilding the network of school medical offices and health education.
4. Strengthen health policies for **CHILDREN**, through consolidating the role of primary care, expanding mental health services for children and adolescents and quickly adopting the new regulations regarding medical prophylactic measures, including vaccination, according to the constitutional principle of public health and the need to protect vulnerable groups.
5. Prioritize the funding for curative national health programs based on the scientific methods of health technology **ASSESSMENT**.

6. Drastically reform the system of **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT** in Romanian hospitals. It is necessary to stop the widely spread practice of allowing public hospitals to postpone complying to the quality standards, thus keeping functional hospitals which are in a very poor state and putting patient safety at risk.
7. A firm political engagement to increase health funding by **1% of the GDP ANUALLY** so that, before 2025, Romania reaches the European Union average. In order to increase quality and efficiency in the healthcare system, we request regulations which should allow equal access both for public providers and non-governmental organizations to national and European funds earmarked for health and socio-medical services.
8. Stop the frequent essential medicine shortages by effective **MONITORING** and rapid sanctioning of pharmaceutical stakeholders that do not comply with the legal public service obligation, according to which they must ensure, with priority, continual medicine supplies to Romanian patients, in every pharmacy.
9. Implementing and adhering to treatment **PROTOCOLS** in every hospital in Romania can become reality only by institutionalizing evidence-based medicine, with the help of proper rewards and sanctions specifically laid down in the law and promptly applied to each and every hospital.
10. Reorganize the **MEDICAL RESIDENCY** program, as a main way of keeping young physicians in the country, by updating the learning curriculum, establishing residency coordinators allocated to a maximum of 10 medical residents and unlocking more positions in the public health system.

The undersigned organizations will periodically monitor the authorities' commitments and fulfilment of the urgent requests stated in this document. The results of this monitoring process will be made available publicly, at regular intervals, and will factually present the state of improvement or deterioration, regardless of the political orientation of the government in place at the respective time and of the overall political situation.

Signatories:

Observatorul Român de Sănătate

Asociația Dăruiește Viață

Asociația Salvați Copiii

HOSPICE Casa Speranței

Fundația Romanian Angel Appeal

Fundația Estuar

World Vision Romania

Asociația Inima Copiilor

Asociația Dăruiește Aripă

Asociația Zi de Bine

Caravana cu Medici

Asociația Națională de Îngrijiri Paliative