



THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
Ombudsman for Children

RIGHT OF THE CHILD TO HEALTH

***Tightening of the health care system
and promoting
the awareness of child-patients' rights***

Vilnius, September 2016

**Convention
on the Rights
of the Child**

Article 24

States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.

States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

The initiatives of the Ombudsman for Children in terms of tightening of the health care system

Regulation of the Minister of Health dated
16 Sep. 2015 amending the regulation on medical
standards of maternity and perinatal care.

The personal child health record – Baby's Book.

Standards of prevention in health care.

Three elements of the child monitoring system

The first element is the duty of the health care provider to inform the primary health care midwife of a newborn baby.

If the mother is not able to appoint a midwife or there arises a suspicion of child-care problems, the health care provider informs the district family support center of the newborn baby. These amendments are aimed to prevent the situations of neglect.

Three elements of the child monitoring system

The second element of the system is the baby's book, which as of 1 Jan. 2016 became an official state medical document received by each newborn child. The Ombudsman for Children has been addressing the Minister of Health about the need for this solution since 2012. The baby's book is a measurable advantage for care givers and the health care system. It optimizes the costs of medical treatment.

It allows:

- *to avoid diagnostic errors*
- *to provide proper preventive measures*
- *to assess the quality of the childcare*

Three elements of the child monitoring system

The baby's book is a standardized document including the following information:

- **personal data of the child and parents**
 - **the course of pregnancy, delivery and neonatal care**
 - **preventive measures including dental examinations and oral hygiene**
 - **hospitalization and specialist consultations**
 - **vaccinations**
 - **other key information (e.g. allergies, physical education exemptions, nutrition recommendations)**
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Three elements of the child monitoring system

The third element of the child monitoring system was the work on the amendments to the standards in the health care prevention for children of the age between 5 and 18 conducted together with the Polish Pediatrics Association.

These standards accede to the Ombudsman's postulate, that a pediatrician should examine each healthy child once a year. The work on the standards has not been completed.

Rights of the Child-Patient - educational initiative

The Ombudsman for Children
cooperates with the Commissioner
for Patients' Rights.

Together they prepared
**the Child-Patient Rights
Charter**

It is addressed to children
and explains their rights
during medical treatment.



The Child-Patient Rights Charter

1. A child-patient is every person under the age of 18.
 2. If you get sick, the medical staff should do everything to make you well and take care of you during treatment.
 3. When you get better enough to go home, you have the right to do it.
 4. You and your parents or guardians have the right to know how the doctors plan to treat you and what the results will be.
 5. Your parents or guardians have the right to your medical documentation.
 6. You have the right to decide about your treatment, but until you reach the age of 16, your parents or guardians make the decisions – later you will decide with them.
 7. No-one may talk about your illness without your permission – you have the right to keep it secret. Only you, medical staff and your parents or guardians may know it.
 8. No-one may hit you, embarrass you, ignore you and threaten you. When you are sick, grown-ups should support you and take extra special care of you.
 9. You have the right to contact your family and close friends at all times. They have the right to be with you in the hospital, sanatorium or health resort. Only in special situations the doctors may decide, that your family and close friends cannot be with you.
 10. When you are in the hospital, sanatorium or health resort, you may always call or write to your family and close friends.
 11. The hospital, sanatorium or health resort are places where you get better, but you also have the right to learn, play and relax. You will get better faster when you do not think about your illness all the time.
 12. If you want, you may see a clergyperson of your religion.
 13. You have the right to put your valuables (treasures) in the hospital deposit.
- Remember that every child has the right to express their opinion in all matters that concern them. Medical staff, parents and guardians must listen carefully.
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Rights of the Child-Patient - educational initiative

The Ombudsman for Children and the
Commissioner for Patients' Rights
held patronage over the publishing of

the book for children

Kuba and Buba in a Hospital

A child friendly way to raise awareness
about the rights of children-patients.





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Thank you for your attention!
