

БЪЛГАРСКИ

ЛЕКАРСКИ СЪЮЗ



BULGARIAN

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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REPORT

BULGARIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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On 9 September 2026, the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA) and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) signed the National Framework Contract for Medical Activities for the period 2026–2028. The agreement represents the outcome of negotiations aimed at ensuring sustainable financing of medical care, improving access to healthcare services, and creating better conditions for physicians and healthcare providers.

For the Bulgarian Medical Association, a central objective throughout the negotiations was to secure adequate financing for medical activities and to ensure that the financing of healthcare reflects the increasing costs and complexity of medical practice. The new framework provides for an average increase of approximately 4.4% in outpatient medical activities and increases of up to 10% for selected hospital activities. The BMA considers the updating of hospital prices particularly significant, given that many hospital clinical pathways had not undergone a substantial price revision since 2024.

The agreement also introduces a number of new medical activities and procedures, reflecting developments in modern medicine and the changing needs of patients. Among the measures welcomed by the BMA are the introduction of next-generation sequencing (NGS) for newly diagnosed oncology patients and new radionuclide-therapy procedures using theragnostic

radiopharmaceuticals for neuroendocrine tumours and prostate cancer. These developments provide opportunities for more precise diagnosis and treatment and bring publicly financed healthcare closer to contemporary medical practice.

Particular attention was also given to children's healthcare and intensive care. The framework introduces new clinical procedures for intensive treatment of children, including care for patients requiring mechanical ventilation or parenteral nutrition. New pathways addressing transient ischaemic attack and urinary-tract infections are also included. The BMA regards the expansion of these services as an important part of ensuring that patients have access to appropriate treatment within the national health insurance system.

Another important area for the BMA was access to medical care and reduction of unnecessary administrative barriers. The new framework contract facilitates a faster procedure for patients changing their general practitioner and introduces provisions allowing certain prescriptions to be issued remotely in circumstances where a patient is temporarily unable to attend a medical practice or has permanent mobility difficulties. The BMA also advocated for greater flexibility in referrals where they are medically necessary, particularly in connection with continuing treatment and monitoring of patients.

The BMA entered the negotiations with the objective of strengthening the sustainability of the healthcare system while protecting the interests of both patients and medical professionals. The final agreement reflects a process of negotiation and compromise between the medical profession and the NHIF.

While not all of the Association's initial negotiating demands were adopted, the BMA considers the final framework an important step towards improving the financing and organisation of medical care.