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When we look at the medical system of north cyprus we see that percentage of the health to general budget is 6.6 percent , which is equivalent to 250 million turkish liras . About 50 percent of the people get their health services from private sector . With a rough estimate thats another 250 million . So the general amount of money spent to the general health is about 500 million turkish liras . So if we manage to get all this money to the general health insurance , automatically this can increase the about budget to 13.2 percent , which is a large sum of money by our standards.

When we look at the doctors working in state sector they also work in private sector too and even some of them are shareholders of private hospitals . So they are in competition with themselves .

Working in government hospital in the morning and working in their private clinic in the afternoon. So this creates a serious dilema for themselves , in private clinics people pay their own expenses from their pocket . There is no general health insurance . This has to be corrected . Present government has set up a committee to work on this But this discussion are going on decades with no sound result .

Private sector is another issue because they don't have general health insurance people pay out of their pocket . They can only deal with cases which does not cost a lot and most of the time they do elective services . Hardly no emergency ambulance, especially after say traffic accident never works, for private hospitals . People are afraid of the open ended bill and private hospitals don't know how they will get the bill after the patient is discharged . So both stay away from each other , especially for the cases above . Recently government has started to send some difficult cases to a private university hospital , after several doctors sign a document that they cannot do it in the state hospital . Here the problem is some of the state doctors sign the paper to send the patient to this university hospital , which is in fact private hospital , end up seeing the same patient in this university in the afternoon . So they sign a paper to send university in the morning because they cannot do !!! And see in this private hospital in the afternoon !!! So this problem has to be solved . General health insurance has to be established and opened to all the private sector and some arrangements has to be made for state doctors to work only in their state hospital .

So general health insurance has to be done immediately and present government is seriously is working on it .

Emergency services are only valid for the government, 112 system only covers the government and almost all emergency cases are transfered to the government hospitals but if the patient wants to go to the private university they can go with their own expenses and sometimes government doctors sign documents to send themselves in which case government pay the expenses . Which is not routine .

112 system is not connected to one office , is connected to several departments of the ministry of health so separate office for 112 has to be established .

Unfortunately several underpaid or poor people engage the emergency department especially at nights and increases the work load of the department unnecessarily .

The understructure of the emergency department has to be reorganized . Again if general health insurance is organized and established , then all the private hospitals and emergency ambulances will be used as well and decrease the workload of emergency departments of the state hospitals . Also it will increase the competition between private hospitals and state hospitals which in turn increase the quality of the medical services .

We all need to reorganise the structure of government health system . Ministry of health is very effective on state hospitals but not much on private sector . Generally number of people running the services on ministry of health are limited and change every time a new government comes into power so this affects continuity in the running of medical services

At present there is no law about the patients rights so if something goes wrong patients are not protected !! They can complain to medical association or sue the doctor in court or if they have good relations with journalist doctors name can end up in a national newspaper . So private information of patient might end up in newspaper and doctor ends up charged without any serious investigation in the eyes of other people . So we need to pass a law about the patient and doctors rights too . Recently number of private cases in courts are in the increase .

Protective medicine is very important . We need to stop formation of disease before actually it happens . Ministry of health is working on food control and laws about them . Use of insecticides and pesticides has to be controlled. Use of unwanted amounts of drugs in farming has to be seriously controlled , group of people which is medical association is part of it are working on this . Environmental problems have to be controlled . Pollution of the environment has to be stopped , medical association is part of a team for the project for clean up of the country called lets do it which was started in estonia in may 2008 , same project is planned in north cyprus too on 5 th of june 2014 . So we need to do a lot as well about environmental problems in effect to reduce the rise of health problems before actually it happens .

Automation is another problem for the health system . We currently is working on automation programme to connect the health system to one network . So if a patient get a blood count in one hospital . We can see in the other hospital too or if they get one drug from one hospital they don't get from other hospital unnecessarily and so we can prevent the unnecessary use of drugs and also prevent the unnecessarily taken of xrays if we go online . Almost all the hospitals are on this network and few will get connected to it soon .

Medical association is part of all this present work going on and is continously giving support to positive changes which are happening and are in these teams established by the ministry of health and supporting with their ideas and criticising any unnecessary things .

Since our last meeting we have made a lot of serious discussions about our medical problems and established several ways of tackling this problems .Because of ongoing current financial crisis no change has happened in the salaries of doctors the value of currency gone down to so value of doctors payment is decreased Working conditions of doctors are not any better than last time . Private sector is increasing its influences on health system too.