

RIJEKA APPEAL FOR RATIONAL AND ETHICAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

In agreement that the Croatian health care system is going through a difficult moment marked by a transition of political, economic, social and moral values, the participants of the Round Table *The current moment of Croatian health system* promote the following principles:

1. public health care system is, as opposed to the private one, a **non-profit** system;
2. all subjects in the public health care system – institutions and individuals, health care workers and patients – must spend both time and materials **rationally**;
3. the basis and criterion of the rationality principles may not be the financial limit set in advance, but the **optimal benefit for the patient** which implies the best possible professional and ethical treatment;
4. **rationalization** is, among other, achieved by insisting on prevention (including rewarding physicians for achieving lower number in illnesses and elimination of bad habits, and not for the reduction in use of materials);
5. considering the fact that the main values of the society are **health, education and work**, the state must ensure sufficient funding for the health care system, whether by reviewing costs and better organization, planning and managing within the public health system or by redistribution from other sources;
6. **the role of the patient and the moral, humane doctor** must continually be empowered within the health care system (by promoting communication and system transparency) and health care services should be improved by collecting suggestions, complaints and commendations;
7. the **responsibility** of both doctors and patients should be emphasized and promoted (regular check-ups) as well as their co-operation;

8. a doctor and the health care system have to aim at better and continual **educating and informing** of a patient;
9. long-term system of legal acts on health care and social welfare should be completed and professionals, patients' associations and politics shall participate equally in its formulation;
10. media have an essential role in the process of improving the public health care system: instead of generating sensationalism and drawing attention to affairs, they should **systematically promote positive values** (for instance those regarding the dignity of doctor's profession, respecting patients' rights, popularization of organ donation, etc.).

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