



# ECONOMIC REFORMS OF HEALTH CARE IN UZBEKISTAN

Narziev Jalalitdin Paigamovich

PhD in Economics, Professor, Department of Management and  
Organization of Sports Events, Uzbek State University of  
Physical Education and Sports

Email: [Jaloliddintermez@yandex.com](mailto:Jaloliddintermez@yandex.com)

## Abstract

In recent years, 50 decrees, resolutions and orders of the President have been adopted in this area, as well as more than 70 resolutions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers. 6 new scientific and practical medical centers were created, the number of which increased to 16. To make it more convenient for our population, 10 of their branches have started working in the regions. 306 new specialized departments and 1200 ambulance stations have been opened in district and city hospitals.

## Introduction

The year 2025 was rich in health system updates. In the process of transforming the industry, it is planned to pay special attention to the following areas. First of all, programs for disease prevention and early diagnosis have been improved, new types of mass screening examinations have been introduced.

220 new diagnostic methods and 488 treatment methods are being introduced in district (city) hospitals.

State health insurance mechanisms are being introduced in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Navoi, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khorezm and Kashkadarya regions. In 2026, this innovation will be implemented in Surkhandarya, Fergana, Andijan, Tashkent, Namangan and Jizzakh regions. In these regions, a guaranteed package of medical services and medicines is being introduced, provided by the state to the population free of charge, medicines for the most common diseases are issued free of charge through pharmacies with an electronic prescription.



In medicine, results-based financing methods are used. Guaranteed medical services are provided at the expense of the budget, the population is not charged additional fees.

From 2026, reforms will begin to completely transform the system of medical education at all levels, ensure the integration of "science-education-advanced training-practice" by improving the activities of clinics of medical universities, organizing a system for assessing knowledge and professional qualifications at the level of international standards. 30 thousand specialists improve their professional skills in medical centers in Tashkent, 1000 in prestigious clinics abroad. Turkish specialists will improve the training program for primary health care workers.

In 2025-2026, it is planned to carry out international accreditation of 7 more specialized centers and 2 higher education institutions. 30 sanitary rules and standards will also be updated.

Also, in order to further improve the quality of high-tech surgical care provided by specialized medical centers, the relevant districts (cities) will be transformed into exemplary and advanced areas.

In 2025-2026, 41 trillion UZS will be allocated for healthcare. Due to this, it is planned to create and equip new hospitals, expand existing capacities, and expand the coverage of medical examinations.

Consistent efforts have been made to implement the priority areas defined by the concept of development of the healthcare system of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2025, the development of a private healthcare system, public-private partnership and medical tourism, the creation of favorable conditions for the wide attraction of investments in the healthcare sector and the improvement of the competitive environment.

An important step in the development of the industry was the resolution "On measures for the further development of the private sector in the field of healthcare". In accordance with it, the number of medical specialties that private medical institutions can deal with has increased from 50 to 126. A number of financial benefits were granted to private clinics. In addition, the period for considering an application for a license has been reduced from 30 to 20 days, the state fee paid for obtaining a license has been reduced from 10 to 5 minimum wages.



It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to develop public-private partnership in the field of healthcare" dated April 16, 2019 opened a new era in the field of medicine. This document serves as a legal basis for the joint work of the public and private sectors, the active work of investors in Uzbekistan, in the public sector", it is emphasized that investors now have access to investments in public medical institutions of their choice in a comfortable environment for them. The choice of a private partner is carried out on a tender basis or through direct negotiations. The duration of the transaction is set by the public and private partner, and it must be at least three years and not exceed 49 years.

In addition, in the event of the import of medical equipment from abroad by any legal entity, customs privileges will be applied to them. By this resolution, a preferential credit line totaling 200 million US dollars has been opened for entrepreneurs and investors importing foreign medical equipment. The mechanisms established by this Decision provide equal opportunities for private medical institutions in public medical institutions, giving investors the opportunity to enter public medical institutions and organize joint activities.

The IT-MED state institution, established in the form of an LLC with the aim of digitizing the healthcare system in 2021, is being liquidated. This is provided for by the presidential decree of December 28 on accelerating the digitalization of the healthcare system.

IT-MED was expected to create a digital health platform. From January 1, 2024, all medical and pharmaceutical organizations in Uzbekistan, including pharmacies, had to start connecting to the portal. This mechanism was developed with the aim of introducing a system of compulsory medical insurance.

The tasks and functions of IT-MED, which are now being completed by a new resolution, have been transferred to a single integrator for the creation and support of state information systems UZINFOCOM. The rights and obligations of IT-MED for its current projects are also fully transferred to it.

In this regard, the single integrator UZINFOCOM is entrusted with additional tasks:

- optimization and simplification of business processes in the healthcare system through digitization based on international experience;



- Implementation and support of a single set of information systems "electronic health", as well as ensuring their integration with the information systems of other government agencies;
- implementation of policies and standards in the field of digital technologies and communications in medicine and pharmaceuticals;
- development of information systems in the field of healthcare, development of technical and economic parameters, concepts of projects financed by foreign financial organizations.

Allocations from the state budget for the digitalization of healthcare continued. The total cost of the project is €58.2 million, of which KfW has provided €45 million in loans and another €5.5 million in grants, with government involvement estimated at €7.7 million.

It is expected that all medical and pharmaceutical organizations in Uzbekistan, including pharmacies, will be required to connect to the digital health platform. However, from January 1, 2025, the single integrator is provided with a commission of 0.3% of the amount paid from the State Health Insurance Fund to state medical institutions for the processing and processing of information related to each insured event and other circumstances registered on the platform in order to develop and maintain the digital healthcare system.

The decree sets the deadlines for the development and implementation of health information systems:

Primary Health Care Information System-February 2025;

Information system "Electronic Hospital" - February 2025;

Automation of the activities of republican specialized scientific and practical medical centers – September 2025;

Improvement of the mobile application of the Ministry of Health – 2024-2025;

Electronic Prescription System: approval of the list of prescription drugs and procedures for connecting public and private pharmacies to this system – June 2024, implementation of this system in pharmacies – in stages in 2024-2025;

Unified Electronic Register of Phthisiatric Diseases - December 2024;

The information system "Cancer-Register" designed to maintain an electronic list of cancer patients:

system development – October 2024, System launch – in 2024-2025;

Information system "laboratory" - for 2024-2025;



Training of medical workers in computer literacy and work with information systems – November 2024;

Electronic Maternal and Child Health Passport System – September 2024;

Registry of patients with nephrological diseases and information system for monitoring consumables for hemodialysis – December 2024;

Information system for monitoring the registry and consumables of children diagnosed with muscular atrophy – December 2024;

Registry of patients who have undergone kidney and liver stem cell transplantation, as well as hematopoietic bone stem cell stem cells, and consumables monitoring information system – December 2024;

The opportunity to receive information about medicines and their analogues on a single portal is July 2024.

Everything will be done thanks to the selfless work of health care workers, who, despite the difficulties, carry the name with dignity - doctor, nurse, paramedic, orderly.

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