

## CRITERIAL AND CLASSIFICATION IDENTIFICATION OF “MEDICAL SERVICES” CATEGORY

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Development of health services should not be seen only in a narrower format of quantitative redistribution of resources between key sectors of social production. Qualitative aspects of the process are also of high urgency, namely a substantial increase of the role of health services in social development and the expanded reproduction of human resources. Their functions in these processes are both general and specific because of different nature of the result of socially useful activity in the field of health care. On the one hand, the therapeutic activity positively affects the physical condition of man, strengthens his health, makes free from disease or facilitating their effect on the patient; and on the other – provides preventive care, attaining in their functions for socially useful activities in the field of physical culture and sport, ecological and envi-

ronmental protection, as well as other kinds that nor in health doctrine nor legally are considered as medical.

The article deals with the features of health services. The author has analyzed the mechanism of medical services' influence on countries' macroeconomic growth and their international competitive position. The economic effects of the medical industry functioning are discovered. The social role of health services in shaping health care system is analyzed. The author characterized trends of health services. The approaches that are now forming the basis of national systems of health care, in particular, of the Member States of the European Union, are considered. In this article, currently existing interpretation of the essence of “medical services” category is overviewed.