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Country Policy and Information Note

Turkey: Medical and healthcare provision

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Preface

Purpose

This note provides country of origin information (COI) for decision makers handling cases where a person claims that to remove them from the UK would be a breach of Articles 3 and/or 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) because of an ongoing health condition.

It is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of healthcare in Turkey.

Country of origin information

The country information in this note has been carefully selected in accordance with the general principles of COI research as set out in the [Common EU \[European Union\] Guidelines for Processing Country of Origin Information \(COI\)](#), dated April 2008, and the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation's (ACCORD), [Researching Country Origin Information – Training Manual, 2013](#). Namely, taking into account the COI's relevance, reliability, accuracy, balance, currency, transparency and traceability.

The structure and content of the country information section follows a [terms of reference](#) which sets out the general and specific topics relevant to this note.

All information included in the note was published or made publicly available on or before the 'cut-off' date(s) in the country information section. Any event taking place or report/article published after these date(s) is not included.

All information is publicly accessible or can be made publicly available, and is from generally reliable sources. Sources and the information they provide are carefully considered before inclusion.

Factors relevant to the assessment of the reliability of sources and information include:

- the motivation, purpose, knowledge and experience of the source
- how the information was obtained, including specific methodologies used
- the currency and detail of information, and
- whether the COI is consistent with and/or corroborated by other sources.

Multiple sourcing is used to ensure that the information is accurate, balanced and corroborated, so that a comprehensive and up-to-date picture at the time of publication is provided of the issues relevant to this note.

Information is compared and contrasted, whenever possible, to provide a range of views and opinions. The inclusion of a source, however, is not an endorsement of it or any view(s) expressed.

Each piece of information is referenced in a brief footnote; full details of all sources cited and consulted in compiling the note are listed alphabetically in the [bibliography](#).

Independent Advisory Group on Country Information

The [Independent Advisory Group on Country Information](#) (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to support him in reviewing the efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of approach of COI produced by the Home Office.

The IAGCI welcomes feedback on the Home Office's COI material. It is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any Home Office material, procedures or policy.

The IAGCI may be contacted at:

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Information about the IAGCI's work and a list of the documents which have been reviewed by the IAGCI can be found on the Independent Chief Inspector's pages of the [gov.uk website](#).

MedCOI

MedCOI is an Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) financed project to obtain medical country of origin information. The project allows 12 European Union member states plus Norway and Switzerland to make use of the services of the 'MedCOI' team in the Netherlands and Belgium. The MedCOI team makes enquiries with qualified doctors and other experts working in countries of origin. The information obtained is reviewed by the MedCOI project team before it is forwarded to the relevant COI Service.

Feedback

Our goal is to continuously improve our material. Therefore, if you would like to comment on this note, please email the [Country Policy and Information Team](#).

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Assessment

Updated: 14 April 2021

1. **Guidance on medical claims**

1.1 **Basis of claim**

For general guidance on considering cases where a person claims that to remove them from the UK would be a breach of Article 3 and/or 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) because of an ongoing health condition, see the instruction on [Human rights claims on medical grounds](#).

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Country information

Section 2 updated: 14 April 2021

2. Overview of the healthcare system

2.1 History and development of healthcare

2.1.1 ICU Management and Practice outlined a history and development of healthcare in 2011, noting that ‘The Turkish MOH [Ministry of Health] was initially established in 1920, and the foundations of the current Turkish public health system were built in the period between 1923 and 1946. In 1946, the Social Insurance Organisation called “Sosyal Sigortalar Kurumu” or “SSK” was created to provide health insurance to private sector and blue-collar public-sector employees (OECD 2008).’¹

2.1.2 In October 2015, a report entitled ‘Transforming Turkey’s Health System-Lessons for Universal Coverage’ published by Harvard University stated that:

‘In 2003, Turkey embarked on ambitious health system reform to overcome major inequities in health outcomes and to protect all citizens against financial risk. Within 10 years, it had achieved universal health coverage and notable improvements in outcomes and equity.

‘Health insurance was introduced in Turkey in 1945, at first covering blue-collar workers and later other groups. From 1960 onward, Turkey’s 5-year development plans included universal health coverage as an objective; a new constitution in 1982 guaranteed rights to health insurance and health services; and a 1987 Basic Law on Health aimed to operationalize these rights. But the law wasn’t implemented, universal coverage failed to materialize, and the poor and unemployed remained without effective coverage. Although the “Green Card” scheme was introduced in 1992 to cover low-income households, it wasn’t integrated with existing insurance schemes and lacked a system for identifying potential beneficiaries; moreover, it provided limited financial assistance for inpatient care and none for outpatient consultations, diagnostic tests, or medicines; uptake was therefore low...

‘Then, in 2002, a new political party won a parliamentary majority and created a government committed to economic and social reforms. In 2003, it introduced a Health Transformation Program (HTP) that aimed to improve public health, provide health insurance for all citizens, expand access to care, and develop a patient-centered system that could address health inequities and improve outcomes, especially for women and children. The 2003 Directive on Patient Rights defined citizens’ rights to health insurance and choice of health care providers. It codified providers’ obligations regarding information provision, confidentiality, and patient consent for interventions and established systems for citizens to express their views about health services.

¹ ICU Management and Practice, ‘[Turkish Healthcare: Overview of the Health System](#),’ 2011

‘Health reforms introduced between 2003 and 2010 separated policymaking, regulatory, financing, and service-provision roles: the Ministry of Health would focus on policy and strategy development, while other agencies oversaw public health and delivery of personal health services. The Social Security Institution was established as a single payer, pooling both risk and funds from contributory health insurance and the government-financed Green Card scheme; it was responsible for strategic purchasing from providers, and its mandate was to improve service quality and efficiency...

‘In 2004, Green Card benefits were expanded and new mechanisms introduced to identify potential beneficiaries. In 2006, the Social Insurance and General Health Insurance Law was ratified, though a court challenge by the Turkish Medical Association and medical professionals’ unions resulted in amendments and delayed implementation. Between 2008 and 2012, Turkey’s various insurance schemes were transferred to the newly established Social Security Institution and merged to establish general health insurance with a unified risk pool and a harmonized benefits package covering preventive health care and family medicine services (provided free at the point of delivery) plus targeted health promotion and prevention programs...

‘Turkey’s experience shows that with committed leadership, middle-income countries can achieve universal health coverage and simultaneously improve population health, financial risk protection, and user satisfaction — health system goals to which all countries should aspire.’²

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2.2 Health Transformation Programme, 2003-2013, and beyond

2.2.1 ICU Management and Practice added that ‘The healthcare system in Turkey has a highly complex structure. The Ministry of Health (MOH), universities and the private sector are the health service providers in the Turkish health system.’³

2.2.2 In the Turkey health system review of 2011, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that ‘Turkey has accomplished remarkable improvements in terms of health status in the last three decades, particularly after the implementation of the Health Transformation Program (HP (Sağlıkta Dönüşüm Programı))...

‘Turkey’s health care system has been undergoing a far-reaching reform process HTP [Health Transformation Program between 2003 and 2013] since 2003 and radical changes have occurred both in the provision and the financing of health care services. Health services are now financed through a social security scheme covering the majority of the population, the General Health Insurance Scheme (GHIS (Genel Sağlık Sigortası)), and services are provided both by public and private sector facilities. The Social Security Institution (SSI (Sosyal Güvenlik Kurumu)), financed through payments by employers and employees and government contributions in cases of budget

² [...] Harvard University, ‘[Transforming Turkey’s Health System \[...\]](#)’, 1 October 2015

³ ICU Management and Practice, ‘[Turkish Healthcare: Overview of the Health System](#),’ 2011

deficit, has become a monopsonic (single buyer) power on the purchasing side of health care services.

‘On the provision side, the Ministry of Health (Sağlık Bakanlığı) is the main actor and provides primary, secondary and tertiary care through its facilities across the country. Universities are also major providers of tertiary care. The private sector has increased its range over recent years, particularly after arrangements paved the way for private sector provision of services to the SSI. The most important reforms since 2003 have been improvements in citizens’ health status, the introduction of the GHIS, the instigation of a purchaser–provider split in the health care system, the introduction of a family practitioner scheme nationwide, the introduction of a performance-based payment system in Ministry of Health hospitals, and transferring the ownership of the majority of public hospitals to the Ministry of Health.’⁴

2.2.3 In 2003, ICU Management and Practice gave details of the formation of the Health Transformation Programme:

‘In 2003, the Health Transformation Programme (HTP) covering the period 2003-13 was adopted by the MOH. The EU accession process has also provided additional momentum for the implementation of a more streamlined healthcare system (Varol and Saka 2008). By October 2008, the harmonisation of the benefit package was completed and finally UHI [Universal Health Insurance] gathered all insured citizens (Bag-kur, SSK, Emekli Sandigi and Green Card holders) under a single insurance umbrella.

‘Under this new umbrella, the programme was introduced as a temporary solution until the adoption of Health Insurance Certificate (“Sağlık Karnesi”), which formally served as a document to prove health insurance plan coverage, was abolished and a new health information system was implemented making patients’ records easily accessible by using their identity card numbers...’⁵

2.2.4 The World Bank stated in April 2018 that ‘The Health Transformation Program [HTP] led by the Government of Turkey since 2003 has contributed to improved health, enhanced fairness in financing, better financial protection, and increased user satisfaction.

‘In 2012, healthcare access for the Turkish population reached 98 percent, resulting in visible improvements in health outcomes. Infant mortality rates halved, from 26 to 12 per 1,000 births, and life expectancy grew to 74 years. Outpatient physician visits per capita more than doubled, growing from 3.1 visits annually in 2002 to 8.2 visits in 2013.

‘Most achievements were a direct result of productivity gains in service delivery and broader patient-centred health sector reforms undertaken during the initial phase of the HTP.’⁶

2.2.5 Article 56 of the Constitution has declared that the state shall regulate central planning and functioning of the health services in both the public and private sectors. The Ministry of Health coordinates all health care and social

⁴ World Health Organisation (WHO), ‘[Turkey: health system reivev](#)’, 13 June 2011

⁵ ICU Management and Practice, ‘[Turkish Healthcare: Overview of the Health System](#),’ 2011

⁶ The World Bank, ‘[Turkey: Transforming Health Care for All](#)’, 27 April 2018

welfare services, including the building and operation of state hospitals, supervision of private hospitals and all pharmacies, training of medical personnel, regulating of the price of medicines and drugs nationwide, and control of drug production. ... Turkey has a well-developed and growing private health insurance system⁷.

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2.3 Financing of healthcare

2.3.1 In 2003, ICU Management and Practice stated:

'The financing of healthcare system has three main sources, which are: Government budget funded by taxation revenue, contributions from employed citizens, and out-of-pocket payments (differing from 3 to 10 Turkish Lira [approximately equivalent to £0.28 to £0.94] according to the type of hospital), which are made by each individual who uses the health service (SGK/Republic of Turkey Social Security Institution, 2008). Citizens in vulnerable groups of society such as pregnant women, war veterans, diabetics and tuberculosis patients do not have to pay any charges...

'Employers must register their employees with the health insurance fund and then income is automatically deducted from employees' salary. Dependant family members are covered by the contributions paid by employed family members. The unemployed, old age pensioners and people on long-term sickness benefit or maternity leave do not have to make payments...'⁸

2.3.2 The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) noted in its Turkey Country Information Report, published in September 2020, that:

'All residents registered with Turkey's Social Security Institution (SGK) have a premium automatically deducted from their wages, and are able to access a range of essential treatment from SGK-registered hospitals across the country. Some out-of-pocket expenditures are required for medications and outpatient services. Unemployed, self-employed and non-registered workers can pay premiums directly on a meanstested basis; the government pays the premiums for those on low incomes. Children of unregistered adults are automatically covered by the system.'⁹

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2.4 Doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and emergency care

2.4.1 **MedCOI:** The Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) financed project to obtain medical country of origin information (MedCOI), noted the following on the availability of general practitioners (GPs):

'General Practitioners (GPs):

⁷ DFAT '[Country Information Report, Turkey](#)', 10 September 2020

⁸ ICU Management and Practice, '[Turkish Healthcare: Overview of the Health System](#),' 2011

⁹ DFAT '[Country Information Report, Turkey](#)', 10 September 2020

'Outpatient and follow- up by a **General Practitioner (GP)** was available by a family physician in a designated GP practice in every "zip code" (public facility) in Turkey.'¹⁰

2.4.2 Regarding hospitals, pharmacies and emergency care, ICU Management and Practice continued:

'There are several types of hospitals throughout Turkey: State-funded hospitals, which suffer from over capacity and lack of finances; University Hospitals, which have the highest standard of care out of all three of hospital types and boast highly skilled personal, and private hospitals. Although a limited percentage of Turkish citizens can afford to use private healthcare, it is affordable in comparison to Western expectations and on a par with western standards.

'Emergency care is available free for Turkish citizens including those without state health insurance. Emergency departments are open non-stop all year and can be reached by dialling 112. By 2008 all ambulances, which are used in 112 Emergency Health Services, were accredited to the European standards (Akdag 2008).'11

2.4.3 Property Turkey, a website aimed towards fee-paying foreign visitors but also citing public health care procedures available for Turkish nationals and residents, noted that 'Each town or village has a family (aile) health centre which is like a local doctor's surgery. Generally known as Saglik Ocagi or Aile Sagligi Merkezi, consultations are free at these family centres on production of a residency permit ...

'Devlet hastanesi (state hospitals) offer ambulance and walk- in emergency treatment for both tourists and residents alike but admissions will be charged for. Doctors at the private clinics or public Saglik Ocagi (family health centres) can refer patients to the state hospital for specialist treatments...

'Emergency treatments are free for both tourists and residents alike, but they do charge for admissions. In the case of residents this is covered by SGK.

'Private hospitals, such as Acibadem and the American Hospital in Bodrum, are also available for ambulance and walk- in emergency treatment for all but will be chargeable and more expensive than the devlet hospitals...

'The private hospitals in Turkey are of a very high standard'¹²

2.4.4 Property Turkey added details of obtaining medical specialism and prescriptions for medication and stated that to see a medical specialist was 'Either by referral from anyone of the private or public doctor's surgeries of clinics ... or by visiting either the public (devlet) or private hospitals available...

'Residents over 18 years old who are registered with SGK will only pay between 10 to 20 percent of the cost of certain prescribed medicines. Some private healthcare policies will cover only a percentage of the cost of the prescribed medicines while others will cover all...

¹⁰ MedCOI: 11 September 2020

¹¹ ICU Management and Practice, '[Turkish Healthcare: Overview of the Health System](#),' 2011

¹² Property Turkey, '[Healthcare and medical in Turkey](#)', updated: 15 April 2020

'Turkey has special pharmacies called Eczane, which you can usually find on most street corners. The pharmacist has the proper training to your [medical] complaints and make a diagnosis or recommendation and also prescribe treatment medication. If they believe you need to be seen by a hospital, they will refer you to one. The pharmacist can also dispense medications over the counter to you that might elsewhere need a prescription from a doctor.'¹³

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2.5 Specialisms

2.5.1 Another site aimed at foreign visitors which also provided information on services available for resident Turkish nationals, Istanbul Homes, stated that 'Turkey has excellent health services. The legal arrangement in the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey explains; "Everyone has the right for social security", which gives access to health services to all residents. Both community and private health services are effectively available and moderate.

'The progressive strides as of late have driven Turkey's medicinal services framework to go to the fore over the world as in numerous different fields. While the clinical foundation has been quickly improving, the bed limit has expanded with recently opened health centres. The ascent in the number of doctors who work in various fields with the assistance of modernizing clinical training has expanded the degree of aptitude of the nation in numerous new zones like aesthetic, eye and heart medical procedures.

'Turkey offers all types of assistance in every single clinical field like; eye illnesses, orthopaedics and traumatology, internal medicine, otorhinolaryngology, gynaecology, general surgery, oral and dental diseases, neurosurgery, skin and venereal diseases (dermatology) and paediatrics...

'General Health Insurance covers assessment as well as the treatment and prescription costs. Under the social security system, deals have been made with all drug stores and patients can have medications by paying little extra over the price.

'We can list the administrations that can be utilized for nothing out of pocket with general health insurance as follows:

- Examination expenses.
- Medicine costs.
- Surgeries and organ transplants.
- Diagnostic natural chemistry, microbiology, pathology assessments, radiological assessment and imaging performed during inpatient treatment.
- Physical treatment and recovery after a medical procedure.

¹³ Property Turkey, '[Healthcare and medical in Turkey](#)', updated: 15 April 2020

- Long- term processes, for example, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, dialysis...
- Also, home care services for incessant patients, people with disabilities and older individuals.’¹⁴

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2.6 Impact of COVID-19

2.6.1 Regarding COVID-19, DFAT stated:

‘The first official cases of COVID-19 were reported in Turkey in March 2020 and spread quickly. While Turkey’s health system has a relatively low average number of physicians and hospital beds per capita, it has a strong intensive care infrastructure and is generally well-prepared for public health emergencies. There has been a range of reports suggesting the hospital system, particularly ICU bed availability, has been under pressure, particularly in the southeastern provinces. There were claims hospitals in Ankara were near capacity in July-August 2020. In April 2020, the Turkish Medical Association alleged the Government was not accurately reporting COVID-19 figures, impacting on awareness of the true extent of the pandemic in Turkey.’¹⁵

2.6.2 In the Turkey country report published on 6 October 2020, the European Commission noted that:

‘The first half of 2020 has been marked by the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU redirected EU funds worth EUR 83 million [approximately equivalent to £71,263,800] to support the COVID-19 response in Turkey, notably to support the most vulnerable refugees, and agreed to extend implementing periods for some Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) programmes...

‘In the context of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in March 2020, the Ministry of Health took measures to minimise the burden on health facilities and medical professionals and protect the public health.

‘Turkey put in place actions in line with the EU Directives on communicable diseases and WHO International Health Regulations. According to the official declarations from the Turkish authorities, the Turkish healthcare system was coping with the COVID-19 needs.

‘Testing and hospitalisation were granted free to all individuals irrespective of their social security coverage. However, there is no external assessment available on the capacity of the Turkish health system. Turkey set up a task force of experts to coordinate COVID-19 containment, which took stringent measures, including closure of schools, public places, weekend curfews, strict confinement of young and elderly persons.’¹⁶

2.6.3 An article published on 25 March 2021 in the Daily Sabah noted that:

¹⁴ Istanbul homes, ‘[Healthcare System in Turkey](#)’, no date

¹⁵ DFAT ‘[Country Information Report, Turkey](#)’, 10 September 2020

¹⁶ European Commission, ‘[Turkey 2020 Report](#)’, 6 October 2020

'[...] six vaccine projects, supported by the Directorate of Turkish Health Institutes (TÜSEB) are underway, though they are not expected to be available to the public until later this year. The Directorate, associated with the Health Ministry, also plans to sponsor two more vaccine candidates. The Directorate's chair Professor Erhan Akdoğan told Anadolu Agency (AA) on Tuesday that scientists at Erciyes, Hacettepe, Yıldız Teknik, Marmara, Atatürk and Akdeniz were working on the vaccines. The vaccine developed by Erciyes, is ahead of others in terms of development and is currently in Phase 2 trials.

'Akdoğan said Erciyes University's vaccine was an inactive vaccine, like CoronaVac, which was developed by China's Sinovac and is currently the only available vaccine in Turkey. He said another possible vaccine standing out among the others, was in fact a "nasal spray" which is currently in the research and development process, ahead of human trials.'¹⁷

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Section 3 updated: 14 April 2021

3. Cancer treatment (oncology)

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) noted that the Anadolu Medical Centre [Cumhuriyet Mahallesi 2255 Sokak No:3, Gebze 41400 Kocaeli, Istanbul] was established in February 2005 to provide outpatients better health services and that '... Our inpatient palliative care unit was officially opened in November 2006, as a part of our department of oncology.'¹⁸

3.1.1 The healthcare website Bookimed gave a list of private oncology facilities in Turkey, with the main hospitals as listed:

- Anadolu Medical Centre, Istanbul.
- LIV Hospital, Istanbul.
- Memorial Sisli Hospital, Istanbul¹⁹.

3.1.2 The healthcare website Globalmedik gave an outline of types of cancers and available treatments in Turkey. It was noted that:

'The Memorial Bahçelievler Hospital [private] is a multidisciplinary hospital in Istanbul, a part of the Memorial medical center network. Equipped with high-tech equipment, the most advanced systems in the treatment of cancer and cardiac diseases. The clinic has one of the strongest departments in general and robotic surgery, where the most complex operations are successfully performed.'²⁰

3.1.3 MedCOI found that the following treatments were available in the following hospitals:

'Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

¹⁷ Daily Sabah, '[Turkish scientist develops substance against COVID-19 replication](#)', 25 March 2021

¹⁸ ESMO, '[Anadolu Medical Centre](#)', no date

¹⁹ Bookimed, '[Top 18 Oncology Hospitals in Turkey](#)', no date

²⁰ Globalmedik, '[Oncology treatment in Turkey](#)', no date

‘Rectal cancer spread to the uterus, ovaries, peritoneum and lymph nodes.

- Terminal and palliative care.
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by an oncologist.
- Surgery: specifically, oncological surgery.
- Diagnostic imaging by means of computered tomography (CT scan) with contrast.
- Laboratory research/ monitoring of full blood count; e.g. Hb. WBC and platelets.
- Laboratory research for electrolytes; potassium, calcium and magnesium.’²¹

‘Thyroid cancer: Medullary thyroid carcinoma.

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by an internal specialist (internist).
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by an oncologist.
- Diagnostic imaging by Doppler ultrasound/ sonography.
- Diagnostic imaging by means of computed tomography (CT scan).
- Laboratory research of thyroid functions (TSH, T3, T4).
- Diagnostic imaging by means of ultrasound/ echography of thyroid gland and neck region.
- Surgery: specifically, endocrine surgery (e.g. for [para] thyroid carcinoma).
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by an endocrinologist.
- Laboratory research of thyroglobulin.
- Oncology: radioactive iodine therapy.
- Inpatient treatment by a (intervention) radiologist.’²²

‘Hodgkin Lymphoma: a blood cancer type (under the specialism of Haematology) in the lymphatic system.’²³

‘Adiyaman University Hospital Yunus Emre mahallesi 1164 sokak Adiyaman (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by a haematologist.
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by an internal specialist (internist).
- Laboratory research/ monitoring of full blood count; e.g. Hb, WBC and platelets.
- Diagnostic research: cytological examination of biopsy material by pathologist.

²¹ MedCOI: 23 September 2020

²² MedCOI: 5 March 2019

²³ MedCOI: 5 March 2019

- Diagnostic imaging by means of x- ray radiography.
- Diagnostic research: bone marrow puncture.
- Inpatient treatment by a (intervention) radiologist.
- Transplantation of bone marrow including pre- and after care.²⁴

3.1.4 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

‘Park Pharmacy, Tunalı Hilmi Caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

‘Rectal cancer example above:

- Fluorouracil- Oncology: cytostatics/ chemotherapy
- Irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate- Oncology: cytostatics/ chemotherapy
- Oxaliplatin- Oncology: cytostatics/ chemotherapy²⁵.

‘Thyroid cancer example above:

- Levothyroxine- Endocrinology: thyroid hormones.
- Thyroxin- Endocrinology: thyroid hormones.²⁶

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Section 4 updated: 14 April 2021

4. Cardiology

4.1.1 The healthcare website Bookimed listed available private cardiology treatments and stated that the main cardiology clinics were as below:

- Anadolu Medical Centres, Gebze in Kocaeli and Ataşehir.
- LIV Hospital, Istanbul.
- Medipol Mega University Hospital, Istanbul.
- Memorial Sisli Hospital, Istanbul.
- Medicana Hospitals Group, Istanbul, Ankara.
- Memorial Bahçelievler Hospital, Istanbul²⁷.

4.1.2 The medical website Vaidam Health gave a list of private cardiology and heart surgery facilities and treatments throughout Turkey and stated that the top hospitals were:

- Medical Park Group, Istanbul.
- Acibadem Hospitals Group, Istanbul, Adana, Kayseri, Eskişehir, Muğla.
- Medipol University Hospital, Istanbul.
- Hisar Hospital Intercontinental, Istanbul.

²⁴ MedCOI: 11 September 2020

²⁵ MedCOI: 23 September 2020

²⁶ MedCOI: 5 March 2019

²⁷ Bookimed, [‘Top 22 Cardiology Hospitals in Turkey’](#), no date

- LIV Hospital, Istanbul²⁸.

4.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospitals:

‘Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by a cardiologist.
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by a neurologist.
- Outpatient treatment and follow- up by a physical therapist.
- Diagnostic imaging by means of EEG (Electro Encephalo Gram).
- Diagnostic imaging by means of Holter monitor/ ambulatory ECG device (cardiology).
- Diagnostic imaging by means of ultrasound.

‘Sütçü İmam Üniversite Hastanesi, Yörükselim Mah 32 Kahramanmaraş (public facility)

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by a cardiologist.^{29 30}
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by a cardiac surgeon.
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow- up by a vascular surgeon.³¹

4.1.4 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

‘Park Pharmacy, Tunalı Hilmi Caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Apixaban**- Cardiology: anti blood clotting.
- **Dabigatran**- Cardiology: anti blood clotting.
- **Edoxaban**- Cardiology: anti blood clotting.
- **Metoprolol**- Cardiology: anti hypertension; betablockers.
- **Atenolol**- Cardiology: anti hypertension; betablockers.
- **Propranolol**- Cardiology: anti hypertension; betablockers.
- **Furosemide**- Cardiology: anti hypertension; loop diuretics.
- **Bumetanide**- Cardiology: anti hypertension; loop diuretics.
- **Atorvastatin**- Cardiology: Lipid modifying/ cholesterol inhibitors.
- **Rosuvastatin**- Cardiology: Lipid modifying/ cholesterol inhibitors.
- **Simvastatin**- Cardiology: Lipid modifying/ cholesterol inhibitors³².
- **Warfarin**- Cardiology: anti blood clotting.

²⁸ Vaidam Health, ‘[Best Heart Surgery Hospitals in Turkey](#)’, no date

²⁹ MedCOI: 22 May 2019

³⁰ MedCOI: 23 January 2020

³¹ MedCOI: 23 January 2020

³² MedCOI: 13 May 2020

- **Acetylsalicylic acid**- Cardiology: anti blood clotting: antiplatelet aggregation.
- **Candesartan**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; angiotensine 2 antagonist.^{33,34}
- **losartan**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; angiotensine 2 antagonist.
- **Valsartan**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; angiotensine 2 antagonist.
- **Pravastatin**- Cardiology: Lipid modifying/ cholesterol inhibitors.
- **Simvastatin**- Cardiology: Lipid modifying/ cholesterol inhibitors³⁵.
- **Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin)**- cardiology: anti blood clotting: antiplatelet aggregation.
- **Irbesartan**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; angiotensine 2 antagonist.
- **losartan**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; angiotgensine 2 antagonist.
- **Diltiazem**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; calcium antagonist³⁶.
- **Carvedilol**- Cardiology: anti- hypertension; betablockers.³⁷

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Section 5 updated: 14 April 2021

5. Diabetes

5.1.1 The healthcare website Bookimed listed private endocrinology clinics that treated diabetes and noted the following main private hospitals:

- Anadolu Medical Centre, Istanbul.
- LIV Hospital, Istanbul.
- Memorial Sisli Hospital, Istanbul.
- Medipol Mega University Hospital, Istanbul.
- Memorial Atasehir Hospital, Istanbul.
- Medicana Hospitals Group, Istanbul.
- Memorial Antalya Hospital, Antalya.
- Memorial Bahcelievler Hospital, Istanbul.
- Okan University Hospital, Istanbul.³⁸

5.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospitals:

‘Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

³³ MedCOI: 4 March 2019

³⁴ MedCOI: 29 January 2020

³⁵ MedCOI: 23 January 2020

³⁶ MedCOI: 4 March 2019

³⁷ MedCOI: 30 October 2019

³⁸ Bookimed, [‘Best Diabetes type 2 Clinics in Turkey’](#), no date

- Laboratory research of blood glucose (incl: HbA1C/ glyc.Hb).
- Laboratory research of blood glucose.^{'39}

‘Sütçü İmam Üniversite Hastanesi Yörükselim Mah 32 Kahramanmaraş (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by an internal specialist (internist).
- Diagnostic imaging by means of ultrasound/echography of thyroid gland and neck region.
- Laboratory research of thyroid functions (TSH, T3, T4).^{'40}

5.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facilities:

‘Park Eczanesi Fırat Eczanesi Ankara (private facility):

- **Insulin:** long acting [24hr]; insulin detemir; Diabetes: insulin injections; long acting [24 hr].

‘Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Insulin**, premixed- aspart (rapid acting) and aspart protamine (intermediate acting) like ® Novomix; Diabetes: insulin injections; mix of intermediate and rapid acting.
- **Insulin-** rapid acting[2-5hr]; insulin aspart like ®Novorapid; Diabetes: insulin injections; rapid acting [2-5 hr].
- **Pioglitazone-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.
- **Canagliflozin-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.
- **Gliclazide-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.
- **Metformin-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets⁴¹.
- **Tolbutamide-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets⁴².
- **Sitagliptin-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.
- **Glibenclamide-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.
- **Linagliptin-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.
- **saxagliptin hydrochloride-** Diabetes: oral/ tablets.^{'43}

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Section 7 updated: 14 April 2021

³⁹ MedCOI: 19 February 2020

⁴⁰ MedCOI: 23 January 2020

⁴¹ MedCOI: 30 October 2019

⁴² MedCOI: 19 February 2020

⁴³ MedCOI: 23 January 2020

6. Ear, nose and throat conditions

6.1.1 A list of Otorhinolaryngology/ ear, nose and throat (ENT) hospitals (private) in Turkey were found on the healthcare website Bookimed⁴⁴.

6.1.2 The health institution specialising in ear, nose and throat conditions, Medient (private facility), noted that all medical and surgical treatments for ENT diseases were available in its centre in Istanbul⁴⁵.

6.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:

‘Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow up by an ear nose and throat (ENT) specialist.
- Surgery, specifically ENT surgery: tracheotomy including placing of tracheal tube and aftercare.
- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a gastroenterologist.
- Inpatient treatment by a gastroenterologist.’^{46 47}

6.1.4 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

‘Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Granisetron**- Gastroenterology: against nausea/motion sickness.
- **Ondansetron**- Gastroenterology: against nausea/motion sickness.
- **palonosetron hydrochloride**- Gastroenterology: against nausea/motion sickness.’⁴⁸

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Section 8 updated: 14 April 2021

7. Eye treatment (ophthalmology)

7.1.1 ICU Management and Practice noted that ‘... Turkey has a reputation for expert laser surgery, to the point where some Turkish Lasik surgeons now train ophthalmologists in other countries. Thus, many foreigners come to Turkey for ophthalmologic procedures.’⁴⁹

7.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:

Hacettepe Medical School Hospital (public facility):

- Outpatient treatment and follow up by an ophthalmologist.’⁵⁰

⁴⁴ Bookimed, ‘[Top 21 Otorhinolaryngology/ Ear, Nose and Throat \(ENT\) Hospitals in Turkey](#)’, no date

⁴⁵ Medient, ‘[Ear, Nose and Throat Center](#)’, no date

⁴⁶ MedCOI: 29 May 2019

⁴⁷ MedCOI: 28 May 2019

⁴⁸ MedCOI: 29 May 2019

⁴⁹ ICU Management and Practice, ‘[Turkish Healthcare: Overview of the Health System](#),’ 2011

⁵⁰ MedCOI: 4 March 2019

7.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:

‘Istanbul University Medical School Hospital, Istanbul (public facility):

- Outpatient treatment and follow up by an ophthalmologist.⁵¹

7.1.4 **MedCOI** found that the following medication was available at the following facility:

‘Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **carbomer eye drops-** Ophthalmology: artificial tears.⁵²

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Section 9 updated: 14 April 2021

8. Gastroenterological conditions

8.1.1 A list of available facilities for gastroenterology treatments was found on the mediglobus healthcare website with the main private hospitals noted as:

- Medicana Hospitals Group.
- Memorial Hospital, Antalya and Istanbul.
- Koc University Hospital, Istanbul.
- Medical Park Hospitals Group, Antalya and Istanbul.
- LIV Hospital, Istanbul.
- Medipol Mega University, Istanbul.
- Anadolu Medical Center, Gebze, Istanbul.
- Yeditepe University Hospital, Istanbul.
- Hisar Intercontinental Hospital, Istanbul.
- Okan University Hospital, Istanbul⁵³.

8.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospitals:

‘Istanbul University Medical School Hospital, Istanbul (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow up by a gastroenterologist.
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow up by an endocrinologist.
- Inpatient, outpatient and follow up by an internal specialist (internist).
- Laboratory research of blood glucose.
- medical devices internal medicine: blood glucose meter for self-use by patient.

‘Altug Eczanesi Millet Caddesi Istanbul (private facility):

⁵¹ MedCOI: 5 March 2019

⁵² MedCOI: 5 March 2019

⁵³ Mediglobus, ‘[Gastroenterology](#)’, no date

- Medical devices internal medicine: blood glucose self-test strips for use by patient.’⁵⁴

8.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

‘Altug Eczanesi Millet Caddesi Istanbul (private facility):

- **Calcium-** Calcium and phosphate metabolism: calcium supplement.
- **Calcium + vitamin D** (combination, such as Calcimagon D3®)- Calcium and phosphate metabolism: calcium supplement.
- **Glucagon-** Endocrinology: raises level of glucose in blood.
- **Metoclopramide-** Gastroenterology: against nausea/motion sickness.
- **Domperidone-** Gastroenterology: against nausea/motion sickness.
- **Pantoprazole-** Gastroenterology: stomach; proton pump inhibitors.
- **Metamizole-** Pain medication: NSAID.
- **Diclofenac-** Pain medication: NSAID.
- **Morphine-** Pain medication: strong medication.
- **Tramadol-** Pain medication: strong medication.
- **Chondroitin-** Supplements; food supplement.
- **Glucosamine-** Supplements; food supplement.
- **Vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin)-** Vitamins.
- **Vitamin D-** Vitamins: vitamin D supplements.’⁵⁵

Note: in this example, the patient was suffering from a chronic epigastric pain (gastric bypass) and had a history of Roux-Y gastric bypass, ulcer of anastomosis of bypass and a sugar metabolism disorder (frequent hypoglycaemia).

8.1.1 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

‘Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Pantoprazole-** stomach pump inhibitors.’⁵⁶

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Section 10 updated: 14 April 2021

9. Gynaecological conditions and obstetrics

9.1.1 Obstetric and gynaecological treatments including perinatology (maternal- fetal medicine), oncology and pelvic floor surgery was found to be available at the Baskent University Hospital Groups in the following locations:

⁵⁴ MedCOI: 10 July 2019

⁵⁵ MedCOI: 10 July 2019

⁵⁶ MedCOI: 30 October 2019

- Adana Hospital.
- Alanya Hospital.
- Ankara Hospital.
- Istanbul Hospital.
- Izmir Hospital.
- Konya Hospital⁵⁷.

9.1.2 Sixty private obstetric and gynaecology clinics in Istanbul are listed on the website What Clinic⁵⁸.

9.1.3 A list of private facilities throughout Turkey showing availability of gynaecology and obstetrics care was provided by the healthcare website Bookimed⁵⁹.

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Section 11 updated: 14 April 2021

10. HIV/AIDs

10.1.1 The medical website Pozitifyasam noted that 'To help people living with HIV advocate for their rights, support their rights and to raise awareness across the nation, people living with HIV founded the Positive Living Association in June 2005 with the support of activists and doctors working in this field.

'In 2007, volunteered counselling and testing centers (VCTC) founded in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir and Trabzon to provide free counselling and testing services regarding HIV/AIDS for all people, particularly the groups under high risk, with the aim of giving protective service. These centers facilitated the free access to quality and protective health services for both healthy people and people under high risk of HIV/AIDS...

'As the project ended in 2015, Volunteered Testing and Counselling Centers founded in 2007 became history.

'Volunteered counselling and anonymous testing services revived in İstanbul with the projects developed by Şişli Municipality's Directorate General of Healthcare and Positive Living Association. As Çankaya Municipality started the same services in 2016, number of centers has significantly increased.'⁶⁰

10.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:

'Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a HIV specialist.
- Laboratory research HIV: viral load.
- Laboratory research HIV: CD4 count.

⁵⁷ Baskent University Healthcare [...], '[Medical Departments, Obstetric and Gynaecology](#)', no date

⁵⁸ What Clinic, '[Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinics Istanbul](#)', no date

⁵⁹ Bookimed, '[The Best Obstetrics and Gynaecology Doctors in Turkey \[...\]](#),' no date

⁶⁰ Pozitifyasam, '[HIV Infection in Turkey](#)', no date

- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by an infectiologist.⁶¹

10.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

‘Firat Eczanesi Tunali Hilmi Caddesi Ankara (private facility):

- **Dolutegravir**- Infections: HIV; antiretrovirals.
- **Emtricitabine**- Infections: HIV; antiretrovirals.
- **Tenofovir alafenamide**- Infections: HIV; antiretrovirals.
- **Descovy® (combination of emtricitabine + tenofovir alafenamide)**- Infections: HIV; antiretrovirals; combinations.⁶²

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Section 12 updated: 14 April 2021

11. Kidney disease (nephrology)

11.1.1 A list of available private facilities for nephrology treatments was found on the Bookimed⁶³ and Mediglobus⁶⁴ healthcare websites.

11.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:

‘Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

- Laboratory research of renal/ kidney function (creatinine, ureum, proteinuria, sodium, potassium levels).
- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a nephrologist.
- Transplantation of kidney including all pre- and aftercare.
- Nephrology: acute haemodialysis.
- Nephrology: chronic haemodialysis.
- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a urologist.
- Urology: placement and follow up of ureter stents.⁶⁵

11.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were found at the following facility:

‘Firat Eczanesi Tunali Hilmi Caddesi Ankara (private facility):

- **mycophenolate mofetil**- Immunosuppressants.
- **Prednisolone**- Immunosuppressants.
- **Tacrolimus**- Immunosuppressants.⁶⁶

⁶¹ MedCOI: 9 June 2020

⁶² MedCOI: 9 June 2020

⁶³ Bookimed, ‘[Top 12 Nephrology Hospitals in Turkey](#)’, no date

⁶⁴ Mediglobus, ‘[Nephrology](#)’, no date

⁶⁵ MedCOI: 9 June 2020

⁶⁶ MedCOI: 9 June 2020

Note: In this example, the patient had twice undergone a kidney transplantation.

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Section 13 updated: 14 April 2021

12. Liver transplants and liver conditions (hepatology)

- 12.1.1 The healthcare website Mediglobus noted that hepatology consultation was available at the following private facilities:
- The Memorial Hospital, Antalya and Istanbul.
 - Medical Park Hospitals Group, Antalya and Istanbul.
 - Medicana Hospitals Group, Istanbul⁶⁷.
- 12.1.2 In November 2018, the Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology noted that 'The Ege University is one of the major centers that pioneered the development of liver transplantation in Turkey.'⁶⁸
- 12.1.3 The healthcare website Bookimed noted that liver transplants were available at the following hospitals:
- Medical Park Hospitals Group, Istanbul (private)
 - Florence Nightingale Hospital, Istanbul (private)⁶⁹.

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Section 14 updated: 14 April 2021

13. Lung diseases (pulmonology)

- 13.1.1 A list of available private facilities for the treatment of lung diseases (pulmonology) was found on the Bookimed⁷⁰ and Mediglobus⁷¹ websites.
- 13.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:
- 'Sütçü İmam Üniversite Hastanesi Yörükselim Mah 32 Kahramanmaraş (public facility):**
- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a pulmonologist.'⁷²
- 13.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:
- 'Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):**
- **Salbutamol-** Pulmonology: anti-asthmatics.
 - **Terbutaline-** Pulmonology: anti-asthmatics.

⁶⁷ Mediglobus, '[Hepatology Consultation](#)', no date

⁶⁸ Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology, '[Liver transplantation in Turkey \[...\]](#)', 1 November 2018

⁶⁹ Bookimed, '[The Best Liver Transplant Doctors in Turkey](#)', no date

⁷⁰ Bookimed, '[Top 12 Pulmonology Hospitals in Turkey](#)', no date

⁷¹ Mediglobus, '[Pulmonology](#)', no date

⁷² MedCOI: 23 January 2020

- **Fluticasone furoate**- Pulmonology: anti-asthmatics; inhalation corticosteroids.
- **Budesonide**- Pulmonology: anti-asthmatics; inhalation corticosteroids.
- **Umeclidinium bromide + vilanterol (combination)**- Pulmonology: COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) medication.
- **Beclomethasone + formoterol + glycopyrronium**- Pulmonology: COPD medication.
- **glycopyrronium bromide**- Pulmonology: COPD medication.
- **salbutamol + ipratropium**- Pulmonology: COPD medication.⁷³

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Section 15 updated: 14 April 2021

14. Mental health, psychiatry

14.1 Organisation of mental health services

14.1.1 DFAT noted in September 2020 that:

‘Turkey adopted a National Mental Health Policy in 2006, followed by a National Mental Health Action Plan in 2011, to cover the period through to 2023. These arrangements shifted mental health services to a community-based system and integrated them into general health services.

‘As of October 2015 (most recent available figures), 86 community mental health centres (CMHC) operated nationwide. Observers claim the CMHCs are inadequately funded, and the number of psychiatrists and other mental health professionals per capita is well below European Union averages. Local groups report a lack of coordination between the government and NGOs working in the area, particularly in relation to reducing discrimination and stigma. Other complaints include that CMHC staff are often poorly trained and paid, leading to high turnover and poor service, and patients must pay directly for their treatment, leading to a two-tiered system.

‘In 2019 broad draft mental health legislation addressing education, information and service access was put before parliament but never voted on. There is tension between mental health professionals and officers of the Moral Support Service Unit operated by the Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) who work across the health system.

‘In February 2019, the Mental Health Professionals Platform released a statement saying the Diyanet staff operating in mental health settings lacked the appropriate scientific background, had caused harm and had gone beyond professional boundaries.’⁷⁴

14.1.2 MedCOI noted that:

‘The policy/approach related to long term clinical treatment/sheltered housing and care for psychiatric patients has been changed since 2013 towards a more modern community mental health care approach by the

⁷³ MedCOI: 23 January 2020

⁷⁴ DFAT, ‘[Country Information Report, Turkey](#)’, 10 September 2020

government: the general approach for chronic psychiatric patients is to treat them in sheltered houses or psychiatric clinics for the acute phase (as long as necessary) and then do outpatient psychiatric follow up in their own environments; e.g. own houses, families.

‘Therefore, there are in general in the whole country fewer psychiatric facilities than before which provide long term clinical treatment/sheltered housing and care (still for psychiatric patients who are not able to be treated as an outpatient there are several centers for long term psychiatric treatment).’⁷⁵

14.1.3 In a report updated on 6 December 2020, ResearchGate noted that:

‘Most psychiatric services are provided by hospitals attached to the Ministry of Health. The private sector accounts for only 150 of the total of 6146 beds. At the five mental hospitals run by the Ministry of Health there are 5570 beds in total, while the two hospitals attached to the Ministry of Social Security have 426 beds (Ministry of Health, 2002). A considerable portion of these beds are still occupied by long-stay patients, which limits the number of beds available for other patients, many of whom are therefore repeatedly re-admitted shortly after being dis-charged too soon...

‘The number of psychiatric beds in general hospitals is not detailed in the current statistics, but the number of psychiatrists working at general hospitals gives an idea of the scale of those institutions’ provision of psychiatric services: of the 398 psychiatrists working at hospitals attached to the Ministry of Health, 238 work in general hospitals and 138 at the five specialist psychiatric hospitals. The tendency to set up psychiatry divisions at general hospitals has increased the provision of local help for people with psychiatric problems. Psychiatrists mainly work in large cities and in the western parts of the country. According to the figures of the Psychiatric Association of Turkey, 760 psychiatrists out of 1149 (i.e. around two-thirds) are located in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir...

‘There are few psychiatric social workers and psychiatric nurses; most of the latter work within higher nurse education. None the less, there are many highly experienced nurses working in psychiatric clinics, although they are not entitled to call themselves psychiatric nurses.’⁷⁶

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14.2 Paranoid schizophrenia

14.2.1 **MedCOI** noted the following criteria and pre-conditions for receiving institutional care with paranoid schizophrenia:

‘There are four campus hospitals for prisoners in Ankara (1), Istanbul (2) and Izmir (1). All of them have psychiatric ward and psychiatrists. All, except one in Istanbul have inpatient facilities. Especially the patients with short-term needs in these cities are hospitalised in these facilities.

‘However, the number of beds in these hospitals is restricted so usually patients are referred to other hospitals. Patients with long-term needs and

⁷⁵ MedCOI: 8 January 2020

⁷⁶ ResearchGate, ‘[Psychiatry in Turkey](#)’, last updated: 6 December 2020

prisoners in other jails can be hospitalised in special MoH mental health hospitals...

'The SSI's [Social Security Implementation] Health Implementation Guide determines the prices of healthcare services. The rules for psychiatric care are as follows:

'1. Psychiatrist visit: The SGK package price is TRY 49 [approximately equivalent to £4.63] per visit for university hospitals, TRY 44 [approximately equivalent to £4.15] for MoH hospitals and TRY 30 [approximately equivalent to £2.83] for private hospitals. This covers the basic tests during the visit as well. Outpatient drugs are not included.

'2. For inpatient care, the SGK package price is TRY 113 [approximately equivalent to £10.67] per day. This covers consultations, hotel expenditures, psychological tests, personal care, EEG, EKG, BT, MR, drugs, family consultations, lab tests, injections and similar procedures. The hospital can opt for fee for service payment instead of 'case payment', but a research is needed to estimate the cost of this type of payment. Hospitals usually prefer to be paid by package payment for this type of diseases.

'There are also community mental health facilities of the MoH. In these centres, the SGK pays TRY 48 [approximately equivalent to £4.53] per day. This includes consultation, patient and family education, group psychotherapy, materials used in all social therapies, lunch and other expenditures.'⁷⁷

14.2.2 Regarding paranoid schizophrenia and costs, MedCOI further noted that:

'If the patient is in jail, no costs have to be borne. If not, and covered by the SSI then he/she pays the co-payments for secondary and tertiary care determined by the SSI (TRY 6 [approximately equivalent to £0.57] for secondary level MoH hospitals, TRY 7 [approximately equivalent to £0.66] for tertiary level MoH hospitals, TRY 8 [approximately equivalent to £0.76] for university hospitals, TRY 15 [approximately equivalent to £1.42] for private hospitals).

'If the patient requires treatment from a specific university hospital academician then he/she is asked to pay twice the price. There are no co-payments for drugs. If he/she is not covered by the SSI and he/she is poor, determined by a means test, the SSI covers all costs. If he/she is under the age of 18 or a university student below 25, all costs are covered by the SSI. If he/she is not under any classification above and not in jail, then he/she has to pay all costs out-of-pocket.'⁷⁸

14.2.3 For patients with schizophrenia with delusions and hallucinations, and paranoid schizophrenia, MedCOI found that the following treatments were available at the following hospitals:

'Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

- Outpatient treatment and follow up by a psychiatrist.

⁷⁷ MedCOI: 26 June 2017

⁷⁸ MedCOI: 26 June 2017

- Psychiatric long-term clinical treatment (e.g. for chronic psychotic patients) by a psychiatrist.

‘Bakırköy Ruh Egitim ve Sinir hastalıkları Eğitim Hastanesi Doktor Tevfik Sağlam Caddesi 25/2 Bakırköy İstanbul (public facility):

- Psychiatric treatment in the form of sheltered housing (e.g. for chronic psychotic patients)⁷⁹.

‘Cerrahpaşa Medical School Hospital Cerrahpaşa İstanbul (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a psychiatrist.
- Psychiatric clinical treatment (short term) by a psychiatrist.
- Psychiatric forced admittance in case necessary.
- Psychiatric long-term clinical treatment (e.g. for chronic psychotic patients) by a psychiatrist.
- Outpatient treatment and follow up by a psychologist.

‘Mazhar Osman Ruh Sağlığı Hastanesi Bakırköy İstanbul (public facility):

- Psychiatric clinical treatment in a closed ward/setting (not necessarily forced admittance).
- Inpatient treatment by a psychologist.⁸⁰

14.2.4 MedCOI found that the following medications for schizophrenia with delusions and hallucinations were available at the following facilities:

‘Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Haloperidol-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; classic.
- **Aripiprazole-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Olanzapine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Clozapine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Paliperidone-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Risperidone-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Sertindole-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.⁸¹
- **Escitalopram-** Psychiatry: antidepressants; SSRI.
- **Citalopram-** Psychiatry: antidepressants; SSRI.
- **Sertraline-** Psychiatry: antidepressants; SSRI.
- **Amisulpride-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.

⁷⁹ MedCOI: 8 January 2020

⁸⁰ MedCOI: 26 November 2020

⁸¹ MedCOI: 8 January 2020

- **Quetiapine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.^{'82}

‘İsıklar Eczanesi Kızılelma Cad İstanbul (private facility):

- **Haloperidol decanoate depot injection-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics classic; depot injections.
- **Levomepromazine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; classic.
- **Pimozide-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; classic.
- **Olanzapine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Clozapine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Paliperidone-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Quetiapine-** Psychiatry: antipsychotics; modern atypical.
- **Biperidene-** Psychiatry: for side effects of antipsychotics/ anti Parkinsonism.

‘İlker Eczanesi Gümrükçü Sok İstanbul (private facility):

- zuclopenthixol decanoate depot injection- Psychiatry: antipsychotics classic; depot injections.^{'83}

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14.3 Drug and alcohol addiction

14.3.1 For care and treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, MedCOI found that the following treatments were available at the following facilities:

‘AMATEM Şehir Hastanesi Bilkent caddesi Ankara (public facility):

- Psychiatric treatment of drug addiction in a specialized clinic (rehab).
- Psychiatric treatment of alcohol drug addiction in a specialized clinic (detox).

‘Hacettepe medical School Hospital Sıhhiye Ankara (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a psychiatrist.
- Laboratory research: medication level in the blood.

‘AMATEM Gazi Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi AMATEM Out Patient Unit, Ostim Ankara (Public Facility):

- Psychiatric treatment of drug addiction; outpatient care.

‘AMATEM Gazi Üniversitesi Ostim Ankara (Public Facility):

- Psychiatric treatment of drug addiction in a specialized clinic (rehab).^{'84}

14.3.2 MedCOI found that the following medications for the care and treatment of drug and alcohol addiction were available at the following facility:

‘Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

⁸² MedCOI: 30 October 2019

⁸³ MedCOI: 26 November 2020

⁸⁴ MedCOI: 20 February 2020

- **Buprenorphine**- Psychiatry: medication used for addiction treatment.
- **Buprenorphine + naloxone**- Psychiatry: medication used for addiction treatment.
- **Naloxone**- Psychiatry: medication used for addiction treatment.
- **Morphine**- Psychiatry: medication used for addiction treatment; opioids.
- **Diazepam**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives.
- **Mirtazapine**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives.
- **Nitrazepam**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives.
- **Quetiapine**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives.
- **Sertraline**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives.
- **Zolpidem**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives. Available but currently experiencing supply problems, time of resupply: unknown.
- **Zopiclone**- Psychiatry: sleeping disorder; sedatives.

'In and outpatient psychiatric treatment of drug addiction with methadone is not available.'⁸⁵

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Section 16 updated: 3 March 2021

15. Neurological conditions

15.1.1 A list of available private facilities for the treatment of neurological conditions was found on the Mediglobus⁸⁶ website.

15.1.2 **MedCOI** found that the following treatments were available at the following hospital:

'Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a neurologist.'^{87 88 89}

Note: examples include epilepsy and care following a stroke.

15.1.3 **MedCOI** found that the following medications were available at the following facility:

'Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Levetiracetam**- Neurology: antiepileptics.
- **Carbamazepine**- Neurology: antiepileptics.
- **Valproic acid OR valproate OR Depakine®**- Neurology: antiepileptics⁹⁰.
- **Levodopa**- Neurology: Parkinson's disease.

⁸⁵ MedCOI: 20 February 2020

⁸⁶ Mediglobus, '[Neurology](#)', no date

⁸⁷ MedCOI: 11 February 2020

⁸⁸ MedCOI: 23 May 2019

⁸⁹ MedCOI: 22 May 2019

⁹⁰ MedCOI: 11 February 2020

- **Bromocriptine mesylate-** Neurology: Parkinson's disease.'⁹¹

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Section 17 updated: 14 April 2021

16. Paediatrics

- 16.1.1 In October 2016, Science Direct noted in an article entitled 'An Overview on Child Health Care in Turkey' that 'Improvements in the health status of the child population followed the introduction of health reforms, such as the Health Transformation Program.'⁹²
- 16.1.2 The healthcare website Angloinfo noted that 'Many hospitals in Turkey have paediatric units staffed by doctors specialising in infant and child health. There are many specially funded children's hospitals catering for childhood illnesses and care.
- 'The University of Hacettepe Child Hospital provides intensive medical care and treatment in all major fields of child and adolescent health and psychiatry. It provides paediatric and new-born surgery, paediatric cardiothoracic surgery, urology, orthopaedics, neurosurgery and ophthalmology. It has a 24-hour emergency unit...
- 'The Zeynep Kamil Hospital [Istanbul] provides a comprehensive service (medical and instructive) to pregnant women. It also has intensive care units for children, with doctors specialised in a wide range of child health issues. There are also infant and child polyclinics within the hospital...' ⁹³
- 16.1.3 A list of private facilities providing paediatric care was found on the healthcare website Bookimed⁹⁴.
- 16.1.4 **MedCOI** provided information about medical care for a 2-year-old female suffering from Glanzmann thrombocytopathy, type 1 (haematology). This is a rare inherited blood clotting (coagulation) disorder characterized by the impaired function of specialized cells (platelets) that are essential for proper blood clotting. Symptoms of this disorder usually include abnormal bleeding, which may be severe. Treatment was found to be available at:
- 'Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Shihhye, Ankara (public facility):**
- Inpatient, outpatient treatment and follow up by a haematologist.'⁹⁵
- 16.1.5 MedCOI found that the following medications for the condition mentioned above were available at the following facility:
- 'Park Pharmacy Tunalı Hilmi caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):**
- eptacog alfa (= activated recombinant factor VII a)- Haematology: haemostatics.'⁹⁶

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⁹¹ MedCOI: 7 October 2020

⁹² Science Direct, '[An Overview on Child Health Care in Turkey](#)', October 2016

⁹³ Angloinfo, '[Children's Hospitals and Emergencies](#)', no date

⁹⁴ Bookimed, '[Top 18 Paediatrics Hospitals in Turkey](#)', no date

⁹⁵ MedCOI: 27 April 2020

⁹⁶ MedCOI: 27 April 2020

17. Painkillers

17.1.1 MedCOI noted the following regarding the availability of painkillers:

'The following **painkillers** were available at:

'Park Pharmacy Tunali Hilmi Caddesi 114C, Ankara (private facility):

- **Paracetamol**- pain medication: light.
- **Tramadol**- pain medication: strong medication.
- **Morphine**- pain medication: strong medication.
- **Oxycodone**- pain medication: strong medication⁹⁷.

'Oncel Pharmacy Yunus Emre Mahallesi 2902 Adiyaman (private facility)

- **Paracetamol**- pain medication: light.
- **Tramadol**- pain medication: strong medication.'⁹⁸

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18. Palliative care, nursing home care and geriatrics

18.1.1 The Anadolu Medical Centre in Istanbul, an ESMO [European Society for Medical Oncology] designated centre of integrated oncology and palliative care, noted that 'The Palliative Care Unit has 29 staff members in total. These are; 1 director, 1 consultant, 5 oncologists, 1 internal medicine, 1 psychiatrist, 1 algologist, 1 psychologist, 1 dietitian, 2 family physicians and 15 nurses. In our Palliative Care Unit, there are 18 beds.

'In this unit, we provide symptom stabilisation to all our patients in their end-of-life. By saying symptom stabilization, we mean following: relief of pain, nutritional, psychological and psychiatric problems, respiratory distress, and acute medical problems. Our psychologist also supports the patient's family and children.

'After symptom stabilization, if home care is possible, patients are discharged. At present our home care programme is using the contracted services of an established home care agency (also the only one of its kind in our area) until we can develop our own home care services. We supplement the care they provide by follow-up calls, open access for patients to reach staff, frequent patient reports from the home health agency to us, and visits to the outpatient clinic when the patient is able. If at any time we can't manage at home, the present system of our hospital allows for unrestricted and prompt inpatient admission of any patient for almost any reason. Also, if subsequent home care is likely to be unsatisfactory, the patient can remain inpatient almost indefinitely.'⁹⁹

⁹⁷ MedCOI: 13 May 2020

⁹⁸ MedCOI: 11 September 2020

⁹⁹ ESMO, '[Anadolu Medical Centre](#)', no date

18.1.2 **MedCOI** found that long-term palliative care and geriatric treatments were available at the following facilities:

‘Özcan Bakımevi Vedat Dalokay Caddesi Ulubey sok. No 14 Ankara (private facility):

- 24/7 care in a nursing home^{100 101}.

‘Özel Ecem Bakım merkezi Bağlıca mahallesi Kuzupınarı Caddesi 16 Etimesgut Ankara (private facility):

- Geriatric care; 24/7 care in a nursing home¹⁰².

‘Seyranbağları Huzurevi Yaşlı Bakım ve rehabilitasyon Merkezi Bağlar caddesi 161/162 Seyranbağları Ankara (public facility):

- 24/7 care in a nursing home.^{103 104 105 106}

‘Hacettepe Medical School Hospital, Sıhhiye, Ankara (public facility):

- Inpatient, outpatient and follow up by a geriatric specialist.^{107 108}

‘Kalimed Medikal Ürünler, Aksu Sokak No 9/A Sıhhiye, Ankara (private facility):

- Medical devices: wheelchair.

‘Efe Medikal, Kazakistan Caddesi 13/A, Ankara (private facility):

Urine catheter.¹⁰⁹

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¹⁰⁰ MedCOI: 8 January 2020

¹⁰¹ MedCOI: 12 October 2020

¹⁰² MedCOI: 12 October 2020

¹⁰³ MedCOI: 23 May 2019

¹⁰⁴ MedCOI: 4 March 2019

¹⁰⁵ MedCOI: 22 May 2019

¹⁰⁶ MedCOI: 30 October 2019

¹⁰⁷ MedCOI: 4 March 2019

¹⁰⁸ MedCOI: 22 May 2019

¹⁰⁹ MedCOI: 22 May 2019

Terms of Reference

A 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) is a broad outline of what the CPIN seeks to cover. They form the basis for the [country information section](#). The Home Office's Country Policy and Information Team uses some standardised ToRs, depending on the subject, and these are then adapted depending on the country concerned.

For this particular CPIN, the following topics were identified prior to drafting as relevant and on which research was undertaken:

- Overview of the health care system
- Cancer treatment (oncology)
- Cardiology
- Diabetes
- Ear, nose and throat conditions
- Eye treatment (ophthalmology)
- Gastroenterological conditions
- Gynaecological conditions and obstetrics
- HIV/AIDs
- Kidney diseases
- Liver transplants and liver conditions (hepatology)
- Lung diseases
- Mental health, psychiatry
- Neurological conditions
- Paediatrics
- Palliative care, nursing home care and geriatrics

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Version control

Clearance

Below is information on when this note was cleared:

- version **1.0**
- valid from **21 April 2021**

Changes from last version of this note

This is the first CPIN covering healthcare in Turkey.

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