

ICLC Newsletter



HEALTH SYSTEM IN COSTA RICA



Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social (CCSS): The Social Security System was created in 1943 during the Government of Rafael Ángel Calderón, when renovating and improving the social

system with a historical legislation: "La ley de las garantías sociales". At that time a minimum salary was established, a minimum of 8 hours of work, one day to rest and the right to syndicate.

The system offers health services to the Costa Rican population: 90% of the residents are already incorporated to the system and the other 10% is able to do it in emergencies.

There are 3 levels of attention:

1. Equipos Básicos de Atención Integral de Salud (EBAIS) to prevent and motivate to a healthy life status.
2. Clinics and hospitals used for emergencies, diagnostics, simple treatments and therapy.
3. Specialized Hospitals used for very serious complex situations.

There are different ways to be part of the Health system:

- Mandatory insurance: for workers (includes wife or husband, children and parents). To finance public insurance, Employer pay 26% of the total salary and the employee 9%.
- Voluntary insurance: when unemployed or doing informal work.
- State subsidy: available for the population in very poor conditions.

The regime includes mandatory health insurance, maternity, permanent incapacity, old age retirement and passes away. The average age to retire is 60 year old and 450 excerpts for women and 62 for men and 462 excerpts.

In case of illness the Employer pays 50% of the salary and CCSS 50%, the first 3 days and the following days CCSS pays 60% of the salary.



A pregnant woman receives birth control even when they do not have coverage.

All children receive vaccination free of charge until they are 9 year old.

In Latin America, Costa Rica is compared with developed countries in terms of health. Not having an army, the Costa Rican Government is able to spend more funds to health and education.

The most important indicators of good health in Costa Rica are:

- ✓ 78.7 year old for life average (76.3 year old in men and 81.0 year old in women).
- ✓ Births in State Hospitals: 99.5 %.
- ✓ Tamizaje test for new birth: 97 %
- ✓ Inhabitants with potable water: 97.5 %



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