



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ
Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT
O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

The Ombudsman-National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) on **05.03.2014** carried out a follow up visit to the **Psychiatric hospital Negorci** accompanied by external collaborators from the Association of psychiatrists and the Association of forensics at the Institute for Forensics, on the basis of previously signed Memorandums of Cooperation.

The purpose of this follow up visit was to assess the level of implementation of recommendations from the separate report of the NPM for 2012 and to identify additional risks for prevention of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The visit of the Psychiatric hospital Negorci was conducted in few steps. The NPM team met with the responsible personnel in the hospital; in two teams they inspected all the departments, and additional premises (the kitchen, the dining room, the store for food products and the sickbay). During the visit the team inspected the medical files and the documentation for fixation.

The NPM visit was targeted towards few negative conclusions from the separate report of 2012 and assessment of the implementation of the given recommendations for improvement of the conditions and elimination of the omissions and risks that may lead to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

During the visit new conditions were noted which in addition to the old ones of 2012, added up to the recommendations for undertaking adequate measures.

Efforts were made for improvement of the conditions in the chronic B and judicial department. In the chronic department there was a bed for each person but still the linen was unclean while as the toilets impure. In the judicial department new mattresses were spotted while as each person had its own closet. The hospital has only one cleaning lady responsible for all departments. The buildings where the judicial and the chronic B departments are situated are old and there is a need for their renovation. The management of the hospital has secured financial means for renovation of these two departments. Also, the females with restricted court order are situated in other departments. Evident is the problem with the security of the judicial department and the need for engaging other responsible institutions, i.e. the Ministry of Justice. The departments for psycho-geriatrics-male and female units are with lower level of hygiene, while as the rooms' condition is not on a satisfactory level. There is a need for renovation of the sanitary knots and the rooms where the older patients are accommodated. In the department for psycho-geriatrics severe patients are situated, those who are immobile. Due to the condition of these patients, there is need for purchase of new mattresses, linen and toilet tables.

The department for working therapy presented its working plans and the adequate documentation of each patient separately. The efforts for support of the patients are very obvious, the department for working therapy has activities for each unit. The personnel stressed that the patients have more interest in sports, thus the management of the hospital added that there is a plan for constructing a gym, as well as a terrain for volleyball and basket ball. Some of the patients in the judicial department are engaged in agriculture. It is very important for persons to be further motivated and to be involved in a working therapy which will help them in their curing process.

During the follow up visit it was concluded that special attention should be paid to the human dignity and integrity of the patients, they do not wear pygamas but have their own personal clothes.

During the visit there were no fixated patients, and it was reported that such fixation happens very rarely. The protocols were compactly filled in for the previous fixations. From the inspection one can noticed that the fixation was very short, few hours in one agitated patient. There is no separate list for acute psychic decompensation, in the list for physical immobilization the reason for that is written as well as the prescribed drugs. According to the personnel, those patients who are immobilized are under a constant supervision by them.

In all inspected histories there was a track of illness of the patients in the Psychiatric hospital Negorci. In the chronic departments it was concluded that the illness histories are properly written down, while as in the medical charts there were discharge letters from the previous treatments in this or another medical facility i.e. the chronology of the illness can be easily followed. In all medical charts there is an agreement form, there are regular day to day visits for which a therapy notebook is reserved where the type and the manner of the therapy for each hospitalized patient is inserted.

The National Preventive Mechanism prepared a separate report where the positive and the negative situations were duly noted and gave appropriate recommendations to the Ministry of Health and the Psychiatric hospital Negorci.