



# #2 THE FRENCH HEALTH SYSTEM: ORGANIZATION

Michèle KANHONOU  
Sept. 21st, 2022

# LECTURE OVERVIEW

## 03. Overview

- The French Health system
- Health insurance

## 08. Organization and management

- Ministries
- State/Regional agencies
- Patients associations

## 16. Funding

## 23. Delivery of care

- Hospitals
- MD (general practitioners/specialists)
- Pharmacy

## 30. State intervention and regulation

- National and regional agencies
- Independant partners

# OVERVIEW

## The French health system: multiple structures

- Outpatient care > GP; first line
- Hospital care: elective care, ER, long-term care, intensive care > life threatening condition, urgent or planned
- Social/Medico-social care (elderly, precarious situations, situations of handicap)

## The French health system: a principle

**Patients/residents are free to choose their**

- Doctor (general or specialist practitioners)
- Health institution
- Accommodation structure

In the public or private sectors

## The French health insurance: a societal contract: 2 parts

Coverage

For benefits inside  
the reimbursable benefits  
nomenclature

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« Nomenclature de frais remboursés »



# The French health insurance: a societal contract

## Reimbursable benefits nomenclature:

- Outpatient care (MD GP/specialists, dentists, midwives)
- Hospital care in rehabilitation establishments (**public or private**)
- MD-prescribed diagnostic exams and care (labs/paramedical professionals – physiotherapist, speech therapist, ...)
- MD-prescribed medication, medical devices, prostheses **but...**

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# ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT



## The Ministries

Direct intervention of the State  
for organizing and funding  
health and medico-social supply

Ministries in charge of:

- *Solidarités et de la santé*
- *Action et comptes publics (budget, comptes publics, fonction publique)*

## The Ministries' missions

- **Management and implementation** of public health, health surveillance, health safety policies
- Health/rehabilitation institutions **supervision**  
Healthcare professionals **training**
- **Financing** health/medico-social institutions  
Setting medical acts' **rates** and  
healthcare **expenditure control**



## Regional Health Agencies

- Same mission different degrees of details and levels
- Created in 2010 to **regroup administrations** and improve public actions for health matters
- Coherent management of the **ressources** towards **equal access in regions**: better application of state decisions but...

## State agency or institution



Public and national state agency

- Authority for medical, scientific, ethical questions and **reglementations** concerning:
  - Cells, biological tissues, transplants, procreation, embryology, human genetics
- Autorisation for **stem cell research**
- National database for **bone marrow donors**

## State agency or institution



Civil entity for  
blood transfusion

- Goal: national **self-sufficiency** in blood products
- **Analyses** for blood transfusion and organ transplants, immunology and donor-recipient pairing (vs Agence de la biomédecine)
- **Research** (tissue engineering, cell therapy, immunology and donor-recipient pairing)

# Health system users and patients associations

- Often forgotten, but considered as **qualified** to participate in the **surveillance actions** of health institutions
- **Principal witnesses** of healthcare **quality and improvement**
- **Permanent control** of healthcare institutions' management
- **Global strategic orientations**, regional and/or national

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# FUNDINGS (HEALTH SYSTEM)



## Health insurances

3 schemes (*régime*)

- Workers scheme
- Self-employed scheme
- Agricultural scheme

————— *Union nationale des caisses  
d'assurance maladie  
(UNCAM)*

## Game rules

**Mandatory membership** (*assurance maladie obligatoire*)

Contribution to this fund **based on the income**

Solidarity: healthcare according to needs

## Union nationale des caisses d'assurance maladie

Establishes:

- The policy setting the **connection** between health insurance and health professionals
- The reimbursable benefits nomenclature: which medical acts are reimbursed
- The care coverage rate (slide 10)

Focuses on **the major health risks**  
for the insured person **income**

- Long-term care
- Costly care

## Insurance companies and mutual funds:

Not mandatory

Game rules:

- Solidarity but for a smaller ensemble
- Healthcare according to the **subscription**
- Coverage: what health insurance does not cover  
(= outside the reimbursable benefits nomenclature and the extra nomenclature for prescribed medical devices, some drugs... )

## Public finances (The State)

Not financing healthcare per say, but its general frame

- Prevention and awareness campaigns
  - > AIDS, COVID, flu, « 5 fruits/vegetals a day »
- Medical and pharmaceutical research  
(Agence nationale de la recherche, financement de l'innovation et de la R&D, ...)
- Health professional training in free universities  
(doctors, dentists, pharmacists and medical assistants)

# Households

Costs covered, in part, by the health system users

(... no analysis, but a few numbers)

In France in 2020 :

6.5% of the households consumption

VS

209.2 billion euros for *healthcare*

(83,4% of the state total budget, 250.7 billion euros)

In 2009, 61.7% of the total budget, 331.7 billions euros

6 times the budget for Defense

3.5 times what taxes were that year

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# DELIVERY OF CARE

## Outpatient care (non-hospital-based care)

### Primary and preventive care

Involving health professionals:

- Medical or pharmaceutical professionals, exhaustive list  
**doctors, pharmacists, dentists, midwives**
- Medical assistants (nurses, physiotherapists, language therapists, ...)



## Hospital healthcare

Provided by:

- Public institutions
- Private **non**-profit institutions (e.g. cancer treatment centers)
- Private **for**-profit institutions

Providing:

- Diagnostic, treatment, follow-up for the ill, wounded and pregnant women
- General care (general practice, surgery, ObGyn)
- Specialized care (psychiatry, mental health)

## *Groupements hospitaliers de territoires (GHT)*

- Mandatory since 2016 **between public institutions** in a given territory: management issues, on smaller territories than those ARS consider

How?

- Coordination of **shared medical projet**
- Use of **shared medical teams**
- Access to medical equipment, biomedical technologies of your GHT

Goal: equal access to healthcare

## Long-term care

**Medico-social** institutions managing **healthcare but other aspects** for:

- Elderly (EHPAD – Etablissements d'Hébergement pour Personnes Agées Dépendantes; *Accommodation establishment for dependent elderly people*)
- Disabled population
- Population in precarious conditions (handicap, violence, poverty + youth)

Actions:

- Educative (or medico-educative)
- Medical and therapeutical
- Pedagogic and for training

## Pharmacy

Drugs and medication

See part 5: *State Intervention and regulation*

ANSM (Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament)

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# STATE INTERVENTION AND REGULATION



## Regional Health Agencies

Inspection and control missions,  
following national policies



How health and  
medico-social  
institutions  
are run



Medical acts and  
professional  
practices

# Regional Health Agencies

## Inspection and control missions

### How health institutions are ran

- How and where care is provided > measures in different services

### How medico-social institutions are ran

- Identify and prevent abuse

### For both

- permanent staff (qualifications and numbers)
- on-call staff



# Regional Health Agencies

## Inspection and control missions

### Medical acts and professional practices

- Actions taken with the French health insurance and medical associations (ordre des médecins, académie de médecine, ...): **prescription = reimbursement**
- Lever = prescription/medical act
- Medical act justification
- Awareness programs on medical act
  - > security, quality, compliance



## ANSM

French national authority:

- Drugs/medication (pre/post marketing authorisation)
- Biological products (cells, biological tissues)
- Medical devices (biotech and software)
- Cosmetics and tattoos

4 missions:

- Scientific evaluation
- Lab monitoring and ad regulation
- Industrial sites inspections
- Health professional information



## HAS – High health authority

### Independant partner

- Accredits doctors and health teams to practice in health institutions
- Delivers a certification to every public and private health institution

### Evaluates

- Healthcare quality and improvement
- Good clinical practices



# Q & A ?

The French health system: organization.  
Sept. 21st, 2022  
Sept. 23rd, 2022



COMING UP NEXT

# #2 part 2

# #3 HEALTH SUPPLY AND DEMAND - part 1

Sept. 23rd, 2022