

► DENTAL AND EYE CARE

Armenia has already developed into a bit of a hub for dental tourism. That's a great thing, especially with so many dentistry clinics gearing their products for foreigners. It costs less for one to fly in from North America or Europe, get their procedures done, and fly back home than it would, for example, to have a root canal or two booked in their countries of residence. Check available dental clinics [here](#).

When it comes to eye care, there is no shortage of professionals, either, with many correction surgeries having been performed for decades now at affordable pricing. The most common eye diseases in Armenia are cataracts, macular degeneration, diabetes, glaucoma, and corneal disorders. Eye care centers are included in most hospitals, and the [Armenian Eye Care Project](#) has been instrumental in providing treatment to adults and children alike.

You should know that optician's shops only check visual acuity (both with the help of Shellen chart and autorefractor). This check is free of charge in case you purchase contacts or glasses. Other eye exams are done in Yerevan clinics like Nairi, Wigmore, etc. Vladimir Avagyan Medical Center's ocular eximer-laser microsurgery [clinic](#) was the first in Armenia and is highly recommended for eyesight correction. There is also a separate [ophthalmological center](#) which provides a wide range of professional services in eye care.

► FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT ELIGIBILITY

Certain members of society are eligible for free medical treatment in accordance with the law. It is recommended that you check in your specific case with the Ministry of Health, just to be sure.

1. Beneficiaries included in the system of family allowance with the rates of neediness of 30.01 points and higher
2. People with disabilities of 1st and 2nd groups
3. People with disabilities of 3rd group (under 18)
4. Children under 18
5. Participants of the great Patriotic War and persons equal to them
6. Women of childbearing age: pregnancy, prenatal/postnatal care
7. Adults without parental care (18-23)
8. Those with direction for additional medical examinations given by state eligible medical and social bodies
9. Individuals of conscription age
10. Military men and the members of their families; family members of those fallen during the defence of the RA and while doing their duties.
11. Employees of rescue services and members of their families, retired rescuers, disabled rescuers, members of the families of the rescuers died during their service.

12. Arrested and convicted people
13. Those who live in orphanages and retirement homes
14. Repressed peoples according to law
15. Participants in activities to eliminate Chernobyl accident consequences
16. People who've suffered trafficking
17. Refugees and members of their families
18. People who retired from military service as a result of injuries, diseases but are not considered disabled (within the frames of rehabilitation programs by eligible state bodies).

Those eligible for free treatment are also eligible for free medication, provided by their registered polyclinics, should it be in stock. Children under 18 are also provided with many of the meds required, should the polyclinic be stocked with what he or she needs.

Those eligible can receive such medical care as:

- Arthroscopic surgery
- Surgery for bone injuries, including metal constructions
- Stone removal
- Prostate surgery
- Scleroplasty and keratoplasty (corneal transplant)

► MEDICAL INSURANCE IN ARMENIAS

As mentioned in the beginning, Repat Armenia has its own medical insurance brokered through [Nairi Insurance](#). As insurance is not a normal part of people's lives here, many types do not even exist, and most that are available are not desired by the local populace. The most commonly used insurance is auto, simply because it is made mandatory by the law. When it comes to medical insurance, Armenia has multiple providers but few individual packages. The ones that are available for individuals to apply to on their own are expensive for low coverage. As the job market becomes more competitive, medical insurance benefits are added to the list of provisions the companies guarantee in order to keep their top employees. Most who consider adding this option are large and can afford to broker a good deal for their employees.

- Pros: A good insurance package means paying a small amount from the start to protect you from paying a large amount in the future. \$250 at the start could save you \$2500.
- Cons: Not everything is included in the insurance package and you might have to pay from your own pocket at times. Make sure the one you have doesn't cut corners.

NOTE: EU citizens are entitled to free public medical and some dental care in Armenia due to reciprocal arrangements. If one wishes for better service and more modern facilities, however, they'd have to pay extra at one of the Western-style hospitals/clinics dotting the capital city.