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Views on Healthcare Services that Require the Payment of a Contribution / Katılım Payı Uygulamasını Gerektiren Sağlık Hizmetleri Üzerine Düşünceler

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ABSTRACT

Payment of a contribution in return for the healthcare services provided to universal health insurance holders and their dependants is a practice which has a long history in the Turkish social security system. Contribution fee is the amount payable by the universal health insurance holder or his/her dependants in order to benefit from certain healthcare services. Aimed at reducing excessive demand for healthcare services and unnecessary use of medications, this practice was re-arranged by the Social Insurance and Universal Health Insurance Law, Nr. 5510, enacted in 2006. Contributions were only sought for medications for outpatient treatment and prostheses/orthoses prior to the Law Nr. 5510, but after the introduction of the Law Nr. 5510, contributions are now required for physician and dentist examinations except examinations by the family physician, and for assisted reproductive methods (in-vitro fertilization). This arrangement brought together a public discussion that universal health insurance holders and their dependants would now have to make payments in more points than they had to do in the past, in other words, they would have to pay more out of their pockets, and the matter remained on the agenda for quite a long time. This study will address the purpose of contributions payable by the universal health insurance holders and their dependants, the types of contributions, the benefits of the contribution as well as problems that are likely to occur.

KEYWORDS Social security; Contribution; Health insurance

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