

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis focuses on the medical social work which is known as a subdiscipline of social work. The main goal of this thesis is to show how medical social work looks like these days in a hospitals and what potential does it have. Theoretical part shows historical context of medical social work, nowadays form of medical social work in the Czech Republic and inspiration from abroad. In the research part qualitative research has been realised trough interviews with medical social workers or social workers working in faculty hospitals, regional hospitals or district hospitals. The goal of the research is to describe the current form of social work in the hospitals and to point out possible shortcomings of social work in the hospitals. The main findings of the research points to the inconsistent education and unclear compentecies of social workers in the hospitals. As a biggest barrier in the area of social work development was the lack of time and the lack of social workers, insufficient follow-up care and social services, and the disconnection of the health and social sector.

**Keywords:** Medical social work, social work in the hospital, activities of medical social worker, qualitative research, social work specialization