

Abstract

Rights and Obligations in the Provision of Healthcare

The aim of this thesis was to analyze the legal framework governing the rights and obligations of patients and other legal subjects involved in the provision of healthcare services. Collectively, these rights and obligations form an integral part of the Czech Republic's healthcare system. Their interdependence is designed to ensure its effective functionality. A key aspect of the healthcare delivery process is the extent to which these rights are protected in cases of infringement, particularly with respect to their practical accessibility and enforceability. The analysis also includes a comparison of the legal status of patients and consumers as the weaker party in the legal relationship arising from the provision of services.

The legislative regulation of health protection is enshrined at the constitutional level, particularly in Article 31 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees the right to free healthcare services based on public insurance under conditions stipulated by law. This provision is complemented by general and specialized legal regulations addressing the legal status of patients and the conditions for providing healthcare services. The values protected under this legal framework include health, life, personal inviolability, privacy, and personality rights.

The thesis is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter analyzes the legal framework of rights and obligations from the perspective of general legal regulations and potential criminal offenses encountered in healthcare. The second chapter focuses on the definition of healthcare in the Czech Republic and provides an overview of the entities integral to its system. The third part examines the legal status of health insurance companies and outlines their rights and obligations, particularly concerning providers and policyholders. This chapter also analyzes the critical role of insurance companies in ensuring the geographical and temporal accessibility of healthcare. The fourth chapter addresses the legal status of healthcare providers, including specific issues related to the rights and obligations of healthcare professionals and the legislative requirements for their qualifications. The fifth chapter details the specialized legal framework governing patients' rights and obligations. The sixth part defines the legal status of other key entities in the healthcare system, including the Ministry of Health, the State Institute for Drug Control, and the Czech Medical Chamber. The seventh chapter is devoted to a comparative analysis of the legal status of patients and consumers from the perspective of

ensuring their legal protection as weaker parties. The final, eighth chapter explores potential methods for resolving legal disputes arising from threats or violations of patients' rights.