

The topic of this work is non emergency ambulance service ( i.e. transport of wounded and/or sick persons).

The theoretical part is devoted to the history of medical transportation services from ancient times to the present both in the world and the Czech Republic. An historical overview is supplemented by information on the development of technical means of ambulance services. The other part is a description of existing systems of ambulance services, particularly the transfer of patients from home to the place of medical care and back or, as the case may be, between health centres in selected countries of the world. In the practical part of diploma work the results of a qualitative research are published. In the first half of 2008 the Czech Ministry of Health published its design of services to be paid by patients- among others - also some transport services. The Ministry included this proposal in the framework of health care reform. The topic of research was to determine the readiness of patients to a significant co-payment (deductibles) for medical transportation costs. A hypothesis was initially established that patients in the Czech Republic were not ready for to the substantial co-payments (deductible coverage) of the costs. The research has confirmed the hypothesis.

The work is accompanied by attachments, in which the historical materials from the history of medical transport services are referred to as well as the picture overview of ambulances operated in the Czechoslovak territory, later in the Czech Republic.