

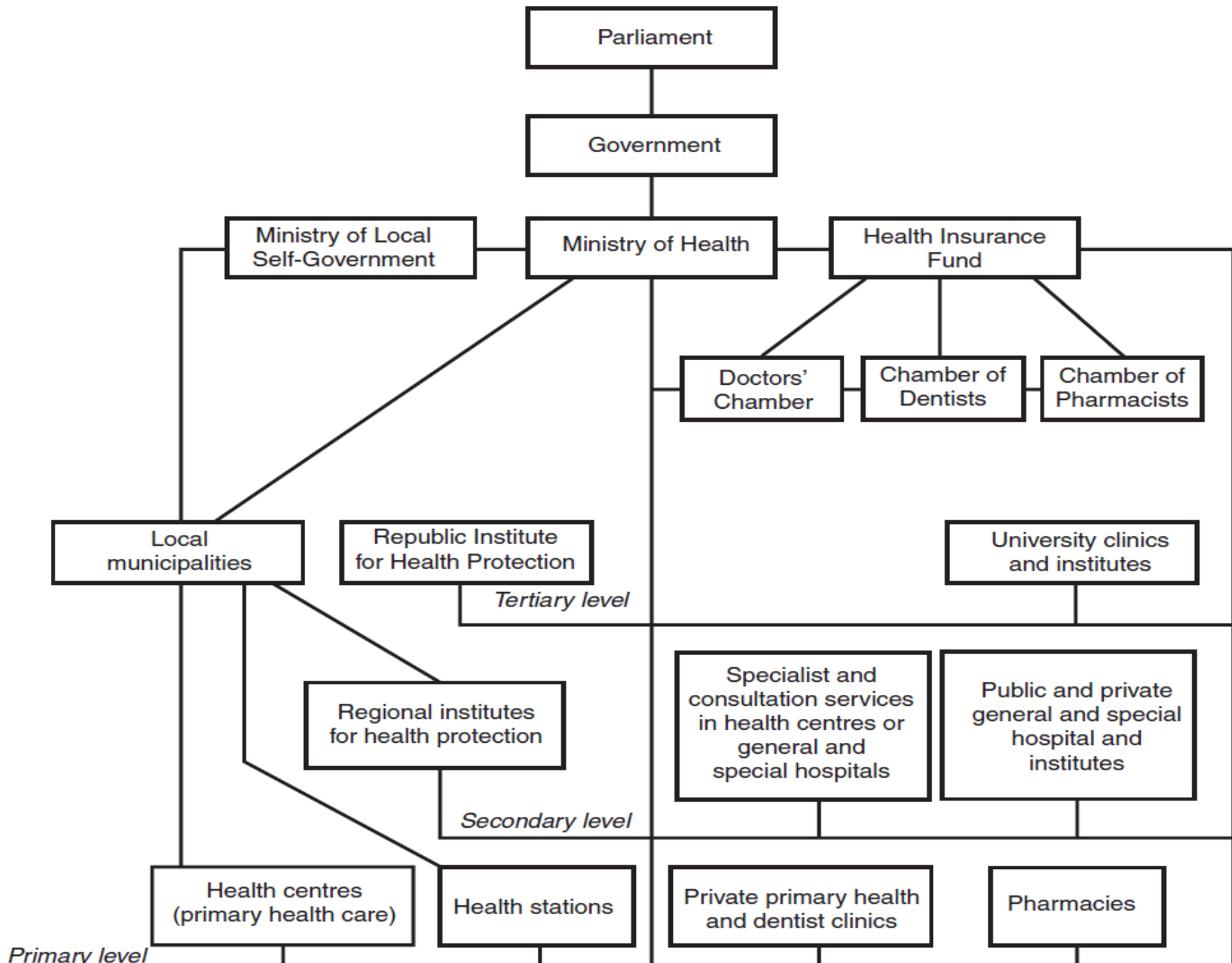
Chronic pain management in Republic of Macedonia

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ACN meeting, Brussels, Oct 02, 2014

Health system in RM

- Independence in 1991
- The initial idea for establishment of the health system led by the notion of equity
- Based on vast positive experiences from the previous system (communicable diseases control, established network for preventive services and universal access and idea for universal coverage, regardless of the ability to pay)
- Highly centralized system, aimed at provision of strict control over utilization of limited resources and equal distribution in time of economic crisis, at a time of transitioning from social system towards market oriented economy



Health system in RM (2)

- Diverse, numerous and continuous challenges
- The healthcare jigsaw cuts across quality of care, decaying infrastructure, affordability, patient safety, rural-urban divide, dual burden of both communicable and lifestyle diseases
- An individual born in RM in 2002 can expect to live on average 72 years, i.e., 5 years less than EU countries
- On average, population in RM lives almost 12% of their lives (equivalent to 8.6 years) with some disease
- Risk factors are identified at individual, household and community level; determinants of health are of socio-economic nature and the key determinants are income, education and employment

Chronic pain management

Chronic pain management

- Pain center – Clinic for orthopedic surgery
- Private practices (mainly physiotherapists)

Chronic pain management - perspectives

- Health Insurance Fund: Extension of essential medicine list with chronic pain drugs (free of charge or small co-payment)
- Amendments to Law on Patients rights (2008) to provide for recognition on needs for appropriate and timely treatment of individuals with chronic pain
- Patients with rheumatoid arthritis are allowed to use special medical rehabilitation (once/year, 21 days). NB: this right can be exercised with consiliar examination, without previous hospitalization

Chronic pain management – perspectives (2)

- Preparation of educational leaflets for chronic pain and rheumatoid diseases and their distribution in health institutions (HIF in collaboration with NGO) aimed at patient education
- Preparation and publishing of Guideline for practicing evidence based medicine for chronic pain management, for integrative and contemporary approach to chronic pain management for health professionals (based on art 27 (1) in Health Care Law („Official Gazette of RM“ No 43/12, 145/12 and 87/13)
- Collaboration with Pain Alliance Europe (PAE), Active Citizenship Network (ACN) in the framework of PAIN PATIENTS PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS PROJECT (PPPR)

Chronic pain management – some examples

- Regular meetings with citizen associations (HIF)
- Representatives of patient's associations in HIF Executive Board
- NORA (member of EULAR – European League for Arthritis and Rheumatology)
- Medical Ecology and Research Center - MERC in the framework of PAIN PATIENTS PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS PROJECT