

Audit Report 3/2022

“Sanitary consumables and medical equipment of state hospitals: Is their management satisfactory?”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sanitary consumables and medical equipment are essential for providing health services to patients in an effective way. Their management system should ensure their protection, their adequacy, as well as equal access of all patients thereto.

The audit was included in the Hellenic Court of Audit’s 2021 Annual Audit Programme. Within its scope, 31 Commissioners’ Units examined the management system of sanitary consumables in 16 hospitals, as well as the system for managing and monitoring access to diagnostic or therapeutic equipment (CT and MRI scans, Pet Scan and linear accelerators) in 29 hospitals.

The findings of the audit are the following:

- I.** The storage conditions of the consumable sanitary material do not ensure its protection from losses and damages.
- II.** The IT system in place does not accurately record actual movement of sanitary consumables. This is even more so at the level of individual hospital units, where handling and disposal of consumable sanitary material is not monitored.
- III.** Hospitals are not aware of the actual stock, nor have they implemented any alert mechanism; this may lead to material shortages or oversupply.
- IV.** The diagnostic and therapeutic equipment is adequately protected and regularly maintained, although there is room for improvement.
- V.** Prioritisation of patients' access to medical equipment is based on informal practices. There is no system verifying that the applicable criteria ensure equal access of patients to medical equipment.