



Migration of Polish healthcare professionals after the accession to the European Union

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Zagreb, 1 May 2008

Poland

Population of appr. 38.000.000

- Medical doctors: appr. 120 000 active
- Dental practitioners: appr. 22 000 active
- Nurses: appr. 270 000
- Midwives: appr. 30 000
- Pharmacists: appr. 23 000



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Sources of data on migration of Polish healthcare professionals

Competent authorities in Poland register all certificates they issue to Polish healthcare professionals.

The number of issued certificates reflects the level of interest, not the actual number of migrating professionals.

Data on migration of Polish medical doctors

**Certificates of conformity
of basic medical training
are issued by the Regional Chambers of
Physicians and Dentists to Polish
doctors seeking recognition of
qualifications in other EU Member States**

**May 2004 – March 2008 – 6 499
(5,62% of active doctors in Poland)**

Data on migration of Polish medical doctors

Certificates of conformity of basic medical training

May 2004 – Dec. 2005 – 3923 (avg. 196 a month)

Jan. - Dec. 2006 – 1382 (avg. 115 a month)

Jan. – Dec. 2007 – 1029 (avg. 85 a month)

Jan. – Mar. 2008 – 165 (avg. 55 a month)

Data on migration of Polish medical doctors

Certificates of conformity of training in specialized medicine

(42 Polish specialties listed in Directive)

May 2004 – Mar. 2008 – 4 314 certificates altogether

- 788 in anaesthetics (18,99% of all Polish anesthesiologists)
- 34 in thoracic surgery (15,45%)
- 23 in plastic surgery (14,8%)
- 65 in accident and emergency medicine (12,9%)

Data on migration of Polish medical doctors

Certificates of conformity of training in
specialized medicine

(42 Polish medical specialties listed in Directive)

May 2004 – Mar. 2008

Appr. 10% in vascular surgery, maxillo-facial surgery,
haematology, orthopaedics, pathological anatomy
and diagnostic radiology.

In addition 62 certificates in general medical practice
(family medicine) – 0,7%.

Data on migration of Polish medical doctors

Certificates issued by the Supreme Chamber of
Physicians and Dentists to graduates of medical
studies in Poland

2004 – 2005

145 – conformity of diploma

58 – good standing

2006

49 – conformity of diploma

69 – good standing

2007

53 – conformity of diploma

22 – good standing

Data on migration of Polish dental practitioners

Certificates issued by the Regional Chambers of physicians and dentists to Polish dentists seeking recognition of qualifications in other EU Member States

May 2004 – Mar. 2008 – 1 185 certificates of acquired rights
(3,89% of dentists in Poland)

May 2004 – Mar. 2008 – 1 973 certificates of good standing
(6,47% of dentists in Poland)

Data on migration of Polish nurses and midwives

Certificates issued by the regional chambers of nurses and midwives to Polish nurses and midwives seeking recognition of qualifications in other EU Member States

May 2004 – Jun. 2006 – 5 912 certificates

(1,90% of nurses and midwives registered in Poland, estimated 3,00% of active nurses and midwives in Poland)

Data on migration of other Polish healthcare professionals

Certificates issued by the Ministry of Health to other Polish healthcare professionals seeking recognition of qualifications in other EU Member States

	2004 – 2006	2007	Total
dental assistant	0	0	0
laboratory diagnostician	10	8	18
dietician	2	3	5
physiotherapist	280	504	784
dental hygienist	4	10	14
speech therapist	0	2	2
massager	1	1	2
child care worker	2	4	6
optometrist	2	51	53
optical technician	3	0	3

Data on migration of other Polish healthcare professionals

Certificates issued by the Ministry of Health to other Polish healthcare professionals seeking recognition of qualifications in other EU Member States

	2004 – 2006	2007	Total
orthoptist	0	0	0
hearing prosthetician	1	1	2
paramedic (medical rescue)	3	11	14
public health specialist	0	3	3
occupational therapist	2	3	5
medical laboratory technician	9	19	28
dental technician	2	9	11
electroradiology technician	23	86	109
pharmacist's technician	6	16	22
orthopedic technician	0	0	0

Recognition of qualifications from other EU Member States

Physicians

2005:

8 – basic qualifications (3 from Germany)

7 – qualifications in specialized medicine

2006:

10 – basic qualifications (5 from Germany, 2 from Italy)

8 – qualifications in specialized medicine

1 – qualifications in general medical practice

Recognition of qualifications from other EU Member States

Dentists

2005:

1 – basic qualifications (from Germany)

2006:

4 – basic qualifications (2 from Germany)

Pharmacists

2005:

1

2006:

2

Recognition of qualifications from other EU Member States

Other healthcare professionals

2005:

5 decisions

2006:

0 decisions

2007:

3 decisions

Foreign physicians in Poland

The Central Register of Physicians indicates that currently out of 129 807 physicians registered in Poland 798 are foreigners (appr. 0,6%).

Over ¼ of foreign physicians reside in Warsaw and the surrounding area.

Specialties of foreign physicians in Poland

General surgery – 24

Internal medicine – 18

Anaesthetics – 14

Paediatrics – 6

Neurology – 5

Cardiology – 3

Family medicine – 20

Obstetrics and
gynaecology – 16

Ophthalmology – 11

Psychiatry – 6

Urology – 3

Language tests for doctors who are not EU citizens

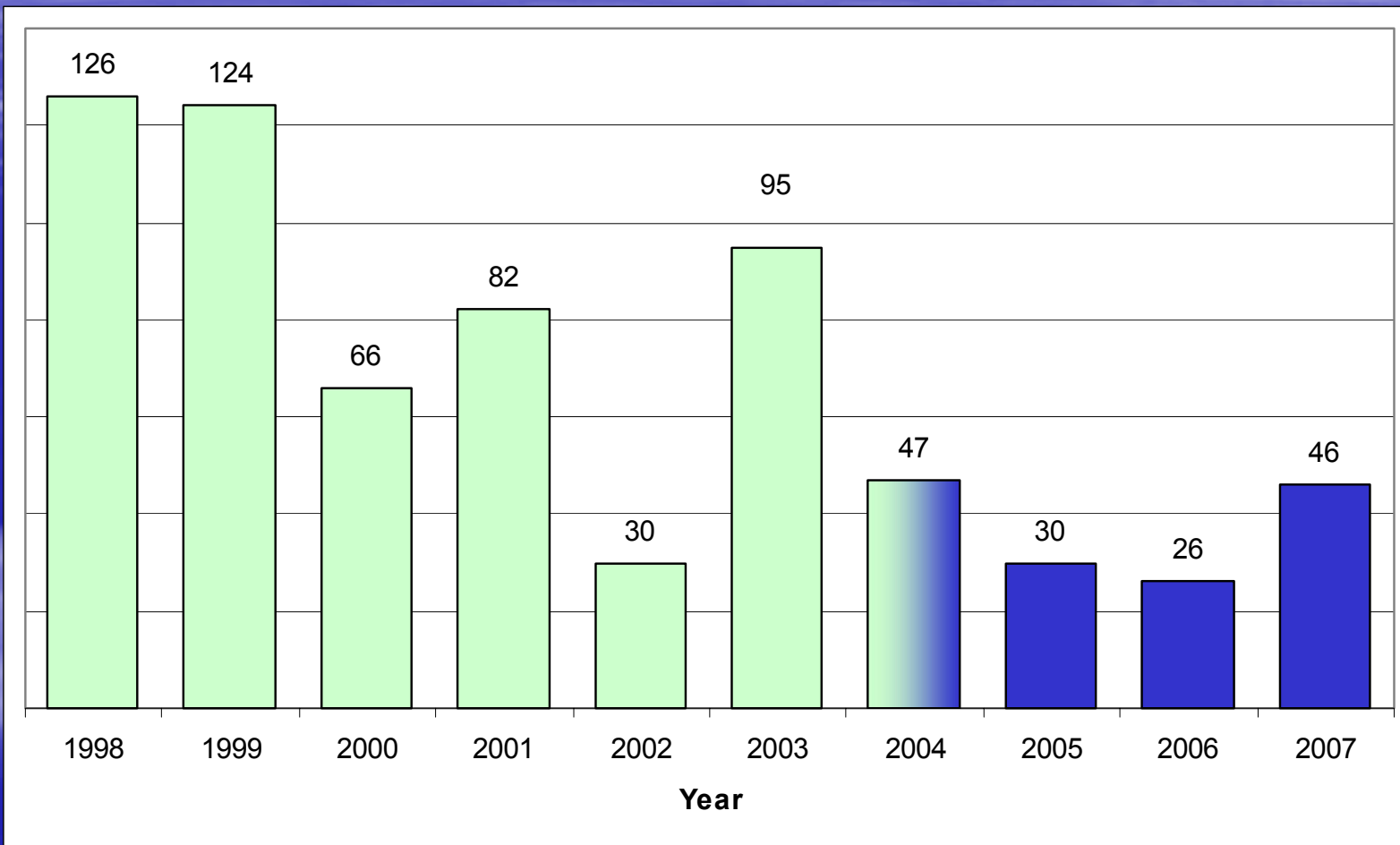
Until May 2004 medical language test was obligatory for all foreigners applying for the right to practice in Poland; thereafter it applies only to non EU citizens.

Foreigners who studied medicine in Polish do not have to take the exam.

Number of doctors passing this test in recent years:
2002 – 30; 2003 – 95; 2004 – 47; 2005 – 30; 2006 – 26;
2007 – 46.

Majority of those doctors were
from Ukraine and Belarus.

Number of foreigners who passed the medical language test



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Migration of Polish healthcare professionals

The Ministry of Health monitors the available data on migration of Polish healthcare professionals (especially physicians and nurses).

Data regarding the certificates is transferred from the chambers to the Ministry on regular basis.

Migration of Polish healthcare professionals

The main reasons of migration of Polish healthcare professionals

- **work conditions**
- **low remuneration of healthcare staff**
- **difficulties with specialist training**
- **costs related with obligatory CPD**

Migration of Polish healthcare professionals

The main factors contributing to the decision to migrate

- **recognition of professional qualifications after the accession to EU**
- **activities of foreign companies recruiting Polish healthcare professionals**
- **much higher level of remuneration of healthcare professionals in other countries**
- **better work conditions**
- **contacts with colleagues, who have already migrated**

Impact of migration on the Polish healthcare system

Migration of healthcare professionals has a negative impact on the Polish healthcare system as a whole.

Migration is not yet a massive movement, but is significant and leads to a large loss of highly qualified staff.

Majority of migrating physicians are specialists.

A deficit of specialists in the field of anesthesiology is already visible.

Impact of migration on the Polish healthcare system

Possible deficit in other fields of specialized medicine.

Possible deficit of healthcare professionals in general.

Possible generation gap.

Costs of training of healthcare professionals.

Impact of migration on the Polish healthcare system

The Ministry of Health co-operates with WHO in the framework of a programme on medical staff planning

Migration of healthcare professionals will have to be one of the key factors taken into consideration

Impact of migration on the Polish healthcare system

To limit the migration of Polish healthcare professionals it is necessary to improve conditions of the domestic healthcare system.

Most of all, the public expenditure on healthcare and the remuneration of healthcare professionals have to be significantly raised.

Thank you for your attention

Inquiries regarding the recognition of qualifications and free movement of Polish doctors or dentists may be addressed to

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