

The third factor affecting the condition of an individual's health is the level of medical protection provided. Let us look at two aspects of this issue: the material capacity of the local health protection system, and the professional level of medical workers.

Of course, the funds that have been allocated are still not sufficient. But neither does the cost estimate structure promote the development of the health protection system either. Thus around 58 percent of all expenditures are taken up by medical workers' wages and salaries, 7.5 percent pays for medicines, 6.5 percent goes to feeding patients, and only 1.8 percent goes toward the so-called "hardware" inventory, i.e. medical and technical equipment, ambulance transport, etc. In our region, this amounts to around 20,000 rubles a year. If we consider that an RAF vehicle cost 5,732 rubles, and a fibrogastroscope cost 8,800 rubles, then to re-equip a health-care institution to bring it up to current standards is out of the question for the immediate future. True, it is now possible to transfer funds "from item to item," and even to redirect economized amounts toward satisfying the social needs of the doctors themselves.

But under the existing circumstances, these are no more than fine words. The health protection budget must be increased significantly. Moreover, the budget should not be planned according to "what has been achieved," the residual principle, or "indexes of consumption" (bed-days, number of visits, etc.), but according to a scientifically developed norm for one resident, and separately for each region.

It should be noted here that the State did recently increase its allocations to health