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## **Archival Materials about the Situation of Medical Institutions in the Kiev Province at the end of the XVIII – first half of the XIX century**

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### **Abstract**

The article investigates archival materials that illustrate the occupation of government bodies that have dealt with healthcare issues in the Kiev province after a medical reform in 1797. The Medical Council and the Order Public Assistance they both established and maintained hospitals, shelters for disabled, orphans. The issues of providing hospitals with necessary medicines and materials are lightened. The epidemiological situation in the region and the measures taken to control diseases have been analyzed.

The aim of the article is to analyze the materials that deal with healthcare system of population of the Kiev province at the end of the XVIII – first half of the XIX century.

**Keywords:** healthcare, Medical Council, Order of Public Assistance, district doctor, city hospital, infirmary.

### **1. Introduction**

Healthcare is one of the primary directions of state activity. The state forms the policy in the healthcare branch and provides its realization. Currently, the industry is in the process of reforming. But in order to provide proper and effective reforming, you need to refer to the origins of the healthcare system and management of the branch. At the end of XVIII century in the Ukraine the empire-wide management system was distributed and due to the new reform in every province there was the Order of Public Assistance. With the introduction of Medical Councils to administrative apparatus of province there were employees who had special medical education, and were completely subordinated to the province administration.

### **2. Materials and methods**

The importance of the study of healthcare and social welfare have archival materials that are located in the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kiev (Ukraine TSGIAK), also the very documents of the Office of Kiev, Podolsky and Volynsky governor-general and of the Office of the Kiev military governor. A great amount of literature is dedicated to the questions of medicine history. Among the modern researches the works of S. Verhratskogo, M. Boychaka, J. Ganitkevicha, S. Stetsenko and others are marked ([Bojchak, 2006: 720](#); [Verhrats'kij, Zabludovs'kij, 1991: 431](#); [Ganitkevich, 2010: 86-93](#); [Stecenko, 2002: 56](#)). The significant place in the source base on medical legislation also belongs to the materials placed and systematized by L. Marcus in the "Compendium for physicians to cognition of Russian laws, institutions and the state service", created on the basis of the "Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire" ([Markus, Kalajdovich, 1843: 198](#)).

### **3. Discussion and results**

In 1797 in the Russian provinces, including Kiev, the Medical Councils that were in charge of the civil and military medicine were organized. By that time, general administrations dealt with healthcare problems. The doctors did not have any administrative rights. The medical council

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consisted of the doctor-inspector, the doctor-operator, the obstetrician and one clerk. Medical workers of military hospitals and regimental infirmaries were subordinated to the Medical Council. This often led to conflicts between the military doctors and military commanders. Often the doctors refused to obey them. Civil doctors who were subordinated to the Medical Council, very often replaced the military doctors in hospitals because they did not have enough military medical workers. On the other hand, in every city the military doctors served in the Medical Council, in hospitals and other civil medical institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Bojchak, 2006: 195). In every province acted the Order of Public Assistance that made improvement and management of hospitals, shelters for the disabled, orphans. Public health provisions were scarce and there were very few professionals (Verhrats'kij, Zabludovs'kij, 1991: 232-233).

The first public hospital in Ukraine was founded in Kiev in 1787 on 50 beds for the "catching diseases". In 1792 in Kiev the military hospital was founded, where wards were located in the casemates of the bond houses. One doctor and two paramedics took care of 100-150 patients (Verhrats'kij, Zabludovs'kij, 1991: 261).

First somatic hospital for the Kiev population was opened in 1803 on 20 beds. In 1811, except two hospitals akushergauz already existed with two beds and full-time midwife and vaccinator.

In the district towns on manning table there were hospitals with 20-25 beds, but in fact it was a refuge for homeless and disabled soldiers. Especially, the hospitals on the right bank of Ukraine were in poor condition.

S. Verhratsky notes that the annual reports of the provincial medical inspector in Kiev province has stated that in district hospitals, "things that should be in the hospital are absent, patients lie on straw on the floor." Tarashchansky district doctor in 1820 in his address to the Medical Council described the hospital as follows: "the roof in many places is open to storms and rains in and waters the patients, and because of this they fall frequently relapse and die". The district doctor in Zvenigorodka noted that "the hospital did not meet the established order, especially because in the same house through seni was made the sale of strong drinks, and because of the lack of kitchen in the hospital the natural needs of patients were not carried out". Such state of medical institutions was also in other districts of the Kiev province (Verhrats'kij, Zabludovs'kij, 1991: 262).

In one of the memos of the district doctor Dobenshteyn in Chigirina to the Medical Council, it was noted that the local hospital was transferred to another building for the order of the mayor Kondratieff. The new hospital was small in size, wet inside, uncomfortable and did not meet the established requirements. Pharmaceuticals that were in the old building were forced out into the street, where they were three days in the rain. After the discovery of some medications Dobenshteyn found that the drugs were wet and moldy (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 3. D. 668. L. 1). Then the doctor, using all his capabilities, built chemist's at the hospital. But soon the chemist's room collapsed and pharmaceuticals were covered with sand and ground (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 3. D. 668. L.1 ob.).

The Kiev Civil Governor in his report dated by August 18, 1830, under No. 2122 ordered that in the room in which the hospital was, a regimental infirmary was placed (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 3. D. 668. L. 3). In addition, it was ordered to look for a building that could be rented and that would meet the requirements for hospital accommodation. The obligation and responsibility for finding the accommodation and transferring the hospital was assigned to the district marshal Chigirin and the solicitor, and from the Kyiv Medical (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 3. D. 668. L. 3 ob.). He also had to inspect the medicines and document its expiry date (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 3. D. 668. L. 4).

The supply of hospitals and infirmaries, their provision with all the necessary material values, clothing, linens, food, building materials was under the direction of the Military Ministry. And the money for the property acquisition was in charge of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It was also entrusted for providing hospitals with medicines (Bojchak, 2006: 195).

Only in the early 30-ies district hospitals in the Kiev province began to receive regularly linens, dishes, means for renovating. Archival materials show that in 1812 the Minister of Police has ordered to provide local hospitals with linens (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 1. D. 1489. L. 197).

For the purpose of improving the functioning of city hospitals, the order of the Kiev military governor was issued under No. 2816, in which it was said that all district doctors had to attach the necessary material values, as Zvenigorodsky district doctor Laptev did, who in his memorandum

described the necessary city hospital medicines and compiled a list of other material values necessary for building the medical institution (CGIAUK. F. 533. Op. 3. D. 674. L. 1-2).

At the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the total number of medical workers in Russia has increased from 1500 to 8072. In 1846 not less than a third of this number were doctors who worked in the army and the navy (Verhrats'kij, Zabludovs'kij, 1991: 239). A significant number of those specialists took part in the management of medical institutions and did not provide direct assistance to patients. Some doctors also were in private practice. Taking these facts into account, it can be concluded that the majority of the country's population did not receive proper medical treatment.

Archival materials also show inadequate medical treatment in some hospitals in the Kiev province. Thus, Colonel Count Adlenberg was sent to review the military hospitals that were in charge of the 4th and 5th infantry corps, and he also inspected local hospitals in Kiev, Radomysli, Zhytomyr, Berdichev, Letichev, Novograd-Volynsky and other district towns along the way and reported on the drawbacks in their management (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 1). The count's report noted that local hospitals did not have proper control of the medical unit, especially in those cities where there were a large number of patients. Hospitals were located in two or more buildings, distant from each other. This situation led to the fact that the patients were deprived of timely medical help. At the same time, such distance of the buildings was beneficial for doctors and paramedics, who were engaged in private practice and were constantly absent from their jobs (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 10b.-2). The Orders of Public Assistance should express the thoughts of the inhabitants of the province concerning such hospitals and inform the state bodies of the necessary (overtime) number of doctors and residents (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 3). Documentary materials show that the hospital in Kiev was located at the Kirilovskiy charitable institutions, in a stone two-storied house and had 82 beds. The greatest number of patients who were there on treatment was 159 people, who were served by 2 doctors, one senior medical assistant and two younger ones. In Berdichev the hospital was located in a construction that was built for Prince Radzivil's own money and there were 35 beds there. The largest number of patients who were treated there was 79 persons. One doctor and one medical student worked in the hospital. The hospital in Radomysl was located in a house that belonged to the titled counselor Krizhanovskaya. There were 15 beds in the institution where 42 patients could be treated. One doctor and one paramedic worked in the hospital. Vasytkivska hospital was in local houses with 15 beds and 92 patients. One doctor and one paramedic worked there (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 13).

The Kiev Medical Council obliged the Order of Public Assistance to report on those hospitals in which the number of patients was twice bigger than the number of beds that the institution was designed for. The heads of hospitals were obliged to report the Orders about the smallest and the largest number of patients who were on treatment. In turn, the Orders gave that information to the Medical Council. In such a way, the number of patients in the region was under control. In particular, the archive materials report that in 1848 there was recorded the smallest and the largest number of patients in the Kiev province: 98 and 198; in 1849, consequently, 130 and 217; in 1850 – 130 and 215. Among them, in the Berdichev hospital in 1848 the number of patients was from 25 to 73; in 1849, consequently, 31 and 76; in 1850 there were 32 and 79 persons. In Vasilkovsky hospital in 1848, 8 and 46 patients; in 1849 – 10 and 67; in 1850 – 25 and 92. In the Radomisl'sky hospital the following data: in 1848 – 12 and 38 patients; in 1849 – 17 and 41; in 1850 – 12 and 35 persons (CGIAUK. F. 442, Op. 84. D. 376. 14 ob.).

The Medical Council reported that the average number of patients entered on treatment from 1848 to 1850 was 116 in the Kiev hospital, 44 in the Vasilkovskaya hospital, 52 2/3 in Berdichevskaya and in the Radomysl'skaya hospital-25 2/ (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 15).

Analyzing these data, the officers of the Medical Council decided that the Kiev hospital should be increased up to 170, Vasilkovskaya – 45, Berdichevskaya – 55 and Radomysl'skaya – 25 places. The number of doctors, in accordance with the approved medical statute, was three people at the Kiev hospital, one at Vasilkovskaya, Berdichevskaya and Radomysl'skaya. Paramedics at the Kiev hospital should have been 8, Vasilkovskaya – 2, Berdichevskaya – 3, Radomisl'skaya – 2.

In these hospitals, the Orders of Public Assistance should place an extra number of beds, and to the number of doctors who have already worked in hospitals, add some more: in Kiev - 1 medic and 5 paramedics, in Berdichevskaya – 2 paramedics, in Vasilkovskaya and Radomysl'skaya – 1

paramedic per each (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 15 ob.). The problem of expanding the hospitals was also reviewed. The Kyiv hospital was provided with obligatory 170 beds and 30 additional ones by officers. This situation was explained by the fact that the number of patients who were on treatment in this hospital was great (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. 16-16 ob.).

The Orders of Public Assistance for the supply of hospitals appropriated little money. Therefore, the work of medical institutions was organized in such a way that hospitals themselves earned additional funds.

City hospitals paid themselves for the work of medical professionals at the means received from patients who stayed on treatment. Archival materials point that the medical assistant Sessarevsky died in the Vasilkovsky hospital, and the hospital council offered to appoint a pupil of the Vasilykov petty bourgeois Panteleimon Levchenko to the vacant job. The Kyiv Medical Council, which had medical staff at its disposal, allowed Levchenko to hold this position. But up to the time until he would be appointed as a medical assistant according to law, the student had to perform his duties free of charge (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 20). Levchenko refused to work under such conditions because he was in a difficult financial situation.

The number of patients in Vasilkovsky city hospital often exceeded 100 people, although it was designed for 15 beds, so one paramedic did not comply with his duties. The salary of the paramedic was 45 rubles and another 12 rubles 50 kopykas were allocated for special clothing. These payments were made from money that the hospital received from patients (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84. D. 376. L. 20 ob.). Taking into consideration such a difficult personnel situation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs permitted the employment of another paramedic and assigned him a salary from the received profits (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 84, D. 376. L. 20).

Hospitals also planned to bring in the uniform for patients. The Kiev Order addressed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a request to give money for copying 11 samples of drawings to create things for the hospital (CGIAUK. F. 442, Op. 75. D. 193. L. 1). Major Tretyakov was entrusted to order the copying of 12 samples of the drawings on favorable terms. Tretyakov said that copying of these drawings will cost minimum 11 silver rubles per copy, and for 12 copies – 132 silver rubles.

General Bibikov signed a relevant filing to the Order of Public Assistance where they were to give the necessary means for copying the drawings. In fact, 121 silver rubles were given to the Uman hospital (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 75. D. 193. L. 2). The Minister of Internal Affairs admitted this price too high and ordered to reduce it to 62 silver rubles 85 5/7 kopykas (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 75. D. 193. L. 5).

The organization of the control of various diseases among the population, the inspection of medico-legal cases, the collection of medicinal plants, even the examination of animals – those were all the duties of a district doctor. District doctors were representatives of scientific medicine, who organized healthcare in the district, found focus of infectious diseases widely spread at that time, vaccinated against smallpox and tried to organize the first hospitals in the regions. In every region there was one district doctor who had medical students. The assignment to the vacant position of the physician depended on the Medical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The physician's pupils were assigned by the Medical Council (Markus, Kalajdovich, 1843: 60). For them, the Medical Council issued a "Guide for doctors to the cognition of Russian laws, institutions and the civil service", since without these preliminary information doctors cannot be demanded to have either exact knowledge of the progress of medical affairs nor the correct application of existing laws (Markus, Kalajdovich, 1843).

The smallpox disease was one of the main reasons of death of older children. From 1787 the doctors began to vaccinate against that disease in a special small hospital in Kiev and other cities of the province. In 1802 district doctors began to vaccinate cowpox for the first time. From the Medical Council they received "smallpox pus", which was vaccinated to children and then revaccinated "from hand to hand" (Verhrats'kij, Zabludovs'kij, 1991: 263).

According to the report of the archival materials, in 1833 there were no quarantines in the Kiev province and the number of doctors was not significant, for example, there were 15 full-time medical workers, 49 free practicing doctors, 12 full-time midwives, 12 full-time medical students, senior and junior pupils were also 12 (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 1. D. 1195. L. 175-175 ob.).

For example, in a report of the Order of Public Assistance given to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were noted the number of patients and funds that were spent in hospitals in the Kiev province for medicines from 01.08.1841 to 01.09.1842. Also, the nutrition of patients was

described, for example, bread and grape wine, vinegar, oil, honey, milk; necessary things, such as beds, tables, bedclothes, dishes, shoes; provided services, such as keeping the premises and the courtyard clean. The report also recorded the costs of paper, books, other office supplies, heating, hospital lighting. Separate columns marked the allowance of various officers and servants in hospitals (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 75. D. 192. L. 5 ob-6). The given report does not include calculations of the Uman hospital because it did not provide such information (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 75. D. 192. L. 4).

Archival materials show that in hospitals in the Kiev province from 01.08.1841 to 01.09.1842, 93852 patients were treated, for the supplies of which were spent 23074 silver rubles 34 6/7 kopykas. On the average, 24 5/7 silver kopykas were spent for a patient per day (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 75. D. 192. L. 6). 444 persons were buried by means of the hospital, and 333 silver rubles 4 kopykas were spent on it. In general, to bury one person cost 75 kopykas (CGIAUK. F. 442. Op. 75. D. 192. L. 6 ob.).

According to the information about the epidemiological situation and the course of illnesses in Kiev, as well as the number of patients who were treated at the Kirilov hospital from 1854 to 1864, the Kiev doctor Dashkevich made a table, in which 22 types of illnesses were introduced, the number of patients who were treated for these diseases and the number of people who died from them. For example, it was noted that the biggest number of people infected by catarrhal and rheumatic fever was observed in 1855, 1857, 1858. The largest number of patients who died from this disease was in 1866 – 5 % out of 100 %. The majority of typhoid cases were in 1855, 1856 and the great number of people died because of this in 1857, 1858 and 1863, that is 35 % out of 100 %. In 1855 and 1856 a large number of people became ill with bloody diarrhea from which 50 % of this number died in 1855 and 1859. The largest number of smallpox patients was recorded in 1860 and 1863, and 20 % died in those years. The highest mortality rate for those years was observed from tuberculosis in 1855 and 1861 – 67 %. The same data on the largest number of patients and deceased are suggested for such diseases as rheumatism, pneumonia, bruises, mental and venereal diseases, measles and others (Dashkevich, 1865: 11-34).

#### 4. Conclusion

Therefore, after analyzing the archival materials, we came to the conclusion that with the introduction of the Medical Council the provincial administrative apparatus for the first time included employees who had a special medical education. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the provision of hospitals was at a low level (hospital buildings were in a very poor condition, and very often in remote locations, there were not enough medical workers and medicines, hospitals were not suitable for the number of patients who were on treatment). Nevertheless, the materials under investigation show that the administration of the region tried to change the situation. Suitable hospital buildings were searched, hospitals were provided with linens, uniform clothing for patients was introduced, and the number of medical workers increased, especially in those hospitals where the number of patients was twice bigger than the norm.

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