

Info Sheet

ON HEALTH CARE FOR PREGNANT REFUGEE WOMEN FROM UKRAINE

(June 2024)

Prenatal care is available free of charge to all women who have fled Ukraine, regardless of whether she has temporary protection status (TPS) or if she is a dual Ukrainian-Hungarian citizen. Below we explain the relevant regulations that can be referred to:

- For temporary protection status holders: specific order of the [EMMI No 9/2022 \(III/11\)](#), which states that *"the temporary protection status holder is entitled to prenatal and obstetric care free of charge"*.
- Dual citizens who verifiably arrived in Hungary after 24 February 2022 and have not yet established a permanent address in Hungary are treated the same way as temporary protection status holders. According to the specific order of the [EMMI No. 9/2022 \(III./11.\)](#), they are entitled to the same health care as temporary protection status holders.
Point 3 of Annex 1 states that: *"(...) a Hungarian citizen with a permanent residence in Ukraine and having arrived from Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022 is treated the same way as those who have applied for or received temporary protection status, with regards to access health care"*.
- Dual citizens who have already established a permanent address in Hungary do not have access to the same benefits as temporary protection status holders. However, they are also entitled to prenatal care free of charge under [Act LXXIX of 1992 on the Protection of Fetal Life](#): *"§ 3 (1) Hungarian citizens residing in Hungary are entitled to prenatal care, free of charge."*

Important note: that the validity period of the TPS card is valid until 4 March 2025, regardless of the date indicated on the card, in accordance with § 3 of Government Decree 30/2024 (22.II.).

Prenatal care step by step

The first step of prenatal care is always a gynecological examination, which can be carried out free of charge at the local health center. Unlike the Ukrainian system, in Hungary prebooking is necessary, which means that you have to make an appointment in advance (by phone or in person).

After the first examination, you can visit your local health visitor (visiting nurse) with the record issued by the OB-GYN. To find your local health visitor, you can use the [dedicated website of ÁNTSZ](#), by entering your address.

At the first visit, the health visitor will issue the booklet where all your prenatal care records will be registered (results of screenings and tests, visits to providers, etc.). From now on, this booklet must be taken to all the prenatal check-ups and presented to the health care providers. This booklet is proof that pregnancy was monitored and supervised, and the presence of at least 4 stamps, verifying 4 prenatal visits, is required to receive maternity benefits. (In the case of premature birth, 1 stamp is sufficient).

Pregnancy is divided into 3 trimesters, or 3 times 3 months, and there are certain tests and screenings recommended for each of these trimesters, including

- a gynecological examination,
- a laboratory test,
- an ultrasound in each trimester.
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The duration of pregnancy (gestational age) is measured in weeks. The birth can be expected somewhere between 37 and 41 weeks. It is important to know at which week your pregnancy is because some tests need to be done in a specific time window. These include:

- the first genetic ultrasound at 11-13 weeks of pregnancy,
- the second genetic ultrasound at 18-20 weeks of pregnancy,
- An oral glucose tolerance test at 24-28 weeks of pregnancy,
- the third genetic ultrasound at 30-32 weeks of pregnancy.

Getting closer to birth, from 36-37 weeks of pregnancy, weekly CTG or NST examinations will be recommended, to monitor uterine contractions and the baby's heartbeat. These tests may become more frequent if the woman goes beyond the due date.

We have found that sometimes health providers do not attend to patients who do not speak Hungarian (or English). Providers can call the telephone interpretation service by dialing 1812. Language should not be a barrier to get care!

If the expectant woman would like to hire an interpreter herself, we recommend the [IOM's interpretation service](#) or the [telephone interpreting service](#) of the Dévai Community Center. In both cases it is necessary to make an appointment in advance. In both cases the service is free of charge for Ukrainian refugees.

Giving Birth

According to the specific order of the EMMI No. 9/2022 (III./11.), it is clear that temporary protection status holders and the Ukrainian-Hungarian citizens holding a permanent residence in Ukraine are entitled to childbirth care free of charge. However, it is not the same for dual citizens having a permanent residence in Hungary. As far as we know, they are entitled to free childbirth depending on their social security status - i.e. if it is settled, they will receive free care, but if it is not settled, they are likely to be charged for the cost of childbirth. [We are awaiting clarification on this point from legal experts. We will update our information sheets whenever new information becomes available.]

Useful links

1. [Special instruction of the Minister of Human Resources on health care for persons arriving from Ukraine](#)
2. [LXXIX of 1992 law on the protection of fetal life](#)
3. [32/1992. \(XII. 23.\) NM decree LXXIX of 1992 on the protection of fetal life. on the implementation of the law](#)
4. [Information about abortion](#)
5. [Information about the Family Protection Service](#)
6. [Address list of Family Protection Services \(CSVSZ\) operating in the area of competence of the Department of Public Health of the Budapest Capital Government Office](#)
7. [Sample letter to promote free and subsidized healthcare for refugees from Ukraine by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#)
8. [Temporary protection card extended until 2025](#)

