

Information for patients: the General Practitioner Programme

With the General Practitioner Programme (GPP), also called GP-centred care, you choose your GP as your first point of contact for all health-related questions.

The GP Programme was introduced to offer you better, more comprehensive medical care. Today, it has become an integral part of the healthcare system.

Conditions for participation for you as a patient:

If you participate, you agree to always consult your GP first. If necessary, your GP will then coordinate treatment with other doctors, hospitals and representatives of other healthcare professions. Consultations with specialists only take place on referral from your GP (with the exception of opticians, gynaecologists, paediatricians and emergency doctors). Your GP can then collect together all results in one place, making it easier to keep track of the full picture, for example any medication that is prescribed. This means that the risks of side effects or interactions between different drugs, amongst other things, can be reduced.

Participation for you as a patient is voluntary and free of charge. You commit to your GP practice for at least 12 months. If you do not terminate your participation with your health insurance provider or if you ask to change to another GP, your participation is automatically extended with your chosen GP so that you can continue to benefit from the advantages the GP Programme offers. If your GP is unavailable, consult the replacement GP Programme doctor named by your practice.

Advantages of participating in the GP Programme for you as a patient:

If you participate in the GP Programme, you will benefit from the following advantages:

- Your doctor will advise you on all treatment questions and discuss the appropriate approach with you.
- Your doctor brings together all of your treatment data, ensures all results, treatments and drugs are thoroughly documented, and thus always has a full overview of your health.
- Your doctor coordinates all of your treatments and makes any necessary referrals, which can help prevent duplicated examinations and unnecessary hospital stays.
- Your GP stays up to date with the latest developments in medicine with regular GP-specific professional development.
- Your GP offers you an attractive range of services, such as dedicated appointments and shorter waiting times.

How to participate:

It is very simple to apply for the GP Programme – all you have to do is sign the participation form available from your GP practice. Your GP will inform your health insurance provider. After your health insurance provider has checked your application, you will receive a welcome letter giving the date on which your participation will begin.