

HEALTHCARE IN A NUTSHELL

Ministry of Health

Personal changes

- **The Ministry of Health has been undergoing significant leadership changes and structural modifications.** Among the notable departures is **Maciej Miłkowski**, the Undersecretary of State responsible for drug policy, whose resignation was signed by the Prime Minister on May 31, 2024. Maciej Miłkowski resigned from his position as Deputy Minister of Health and was the only deputy minister from the previous government (PiS) to receive an offer to continue in his position after the October parliamentary elections. During a press conference on 17th June, Minister Izabela Leszczyna announced that Deputy **Minister Marek Kos will oversee the Drug Policy and Pharmacy Department at the Ministry of Health**, thus replacing Deputy Minister Maciej Miłkowski.
- **BIO: Marek Kos** joined the Ministry of Health jointly with Izabela Leszczyna. Previously, he managed the Department of Security, the Department of Social Dialogue, and the Department of Medical Personnel Development at the Ministry of Health. Kos is a graduate of the Medical University of Lublin. He previously served as the director of the Holy Spirit Specialist Hospital in Sandomierz, as well as an assistant professor at the Department of Public Health at the Medical University of Lublin. He is also a lecturer in health management and public health. Since 2014, he has been a member of the Lublin Voivodeship Council. He is affiliated with the Polish People's Party – in the October 2023 parliamentary elections, he ran with the Third Way party. From 2002-2013, he worked as an expert witness for the Lublin Regional Court and as a medical expert for the Regional Unit of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund in Kraśnik (2000-2007). Earlier, he was a member of the Presidium of the Lublin Chamber of Physicians.
- **Effective July 1, the Ministry of Health has finalized its top leadership team, appointing Jerzy Szafranowicz as the new Deputy Minister of Health – he will be responsible for the Department of Social Dialogue and the Department of Treatment, excluding matters related to rare diseases.**
- **BIO: Jerzy Szafranowicz** is a multifaceted professional, holding qualifications as a medical doctor specializing in orthopedics and traumatology, a health manager, and a PhD in economics. He has previously served as the Deputy Mayor of Chorzów and the Director of the Silesian branch of the National Health Fund (NFZ). He is currently transitioning from his role as the Director of the Municipal Hospital Group in Chorzów to become a Deputy Minister. In a recent interview, Szafranowicz emphasized the urgent need for system healthcare changes, particularly the NFZ's decentralization. He suggested expanding the competencies of regional

NFZ directors to address better regional and local issues, such as the migration of hospital departments and the consolidation of healthcare entities.

- **Jakub Gołąb, recently Senior Advisor at Vision Group Executive Advisors, is now the spokesperson for the Ministry of Health.**
 - **BIO: Jakub Gołąb** is an experienced advisor and manager with over twenty years of experience in both the public and private healthcare sectors. He is an expert in health communication, public relations, and social policy. In 2019-2024, he served as Director of the Commissioner for Patient Rights, overseeing communication and dialogue. Earlier, worked as an advisor and press spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, spokesperson for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, and analyst and advisor in the Office of the Marshal of the Sejm. He has also been involved in numerous projects and social campaigns, engaging stakeholders across various sectors of society.

Projected structural changes

The Ministry of Health is planning significant organizational changes, including the establishment of new departments and restructuring of existing ones.

- A key initiative is the creation of the:
 - **Department of Coordinated Care**, which will oversee care **coordination in oncology and cardiology, implement health strategies, and supervise medical research and innovations.** Konrad Korbiński, current director of the Treatment Department and former Political Cabinet Chief, is likely to lead this new department.
 - Another planned addition is the Department of Equality in Healthcare, which will focus on increasing fertility, treating infertility, and overseeing the in vitro program. Dagmara Korbasińska-Chwedczuk, currently deputy director of the Department of Public Health, is a potential candidate to lead this new department.
 - The Ministry also plans to establish a **Department of E-Health to replace the dissolving Department of Innovation, as well as create a Department of Education and Health Promotion.** Additionally, two new positions are being considered: Chief Economist of Health Protection and Chief Health Economist, responsible for coordinating financial policies and providing data for healthcare reforms.
- During the European Economic Congress in Katowice, Minister of Health Izabela Leszczyna announced plans to introduce an „inverted pyramid of benefits” in the healthcare system. This initiative aims to shift certain procedures from hospitals to outpatient specialist care to reduce hospital burden.