

Medical tourism

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Travels, associated with medical rehabilitation, have been known since ancient times. Greek pilgrims were the first people who started to travel for medical rehabilitation from the Eastern Mediterranean to the small area in the Saronic Gulf called Epidauria. Spa towns with healing mineral waters and sanatoria were very popular in Europe in the 18th-century. They may be considered the earliest forms of medical tourism. With the development of international relations tourism has become widely spread in different countries. Being independent our country is constantly getting in contact with other countries, particularly, in the tourism field. Hundreds of foreigners visited Belarus in 2014 during IIHF World Championship. Nowadays our country is well-known all over the world for its high quality Belarusian medicine and moderate prices on medical services. All of this affects the development of tourism itself, including medical tourism.

The purpose of this study is to familiarize the students with the definition "medical tourism", demonstrate the achievements of the most advanced countries in this sphere, analyze the most beneficial options for this service in the Republic of Belarus.

The study material is the analysis of the travel companies most famous sites, relevant literature, media and internet sources.

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