

The Accessibility of Health Services in Lithuania

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The accessibility of health services plays a critical role in the outcomes of the health system. There are differences in the accessibility of health services between municipalities in Lithuania. The main gatekeeper for health services is a general practitioner who provides primary medical care and makes referrals for secondary or tertiary-level treatment. There are supply and demand factors affecting access to the services of general practitioners (Barr, N., 1996; Feldstein, P.J., 2012). The goal of the study is to examine the demand factors for access to the services of general practitioners. To find out the demand factors that determine access to the services of general practitioners, a hypothesized model of demand factors was constructed. The model is based on J. Elster's (2009) action theory and the theory of bounded rationality. In order to test the hypothesized model, Population health statistical survey data was employed. The data was collected by the State Data Agency in 2019. The methods of quantitative data analysis were employed in order to reveal the demand factors for access to the services of general practitioners.