



American School
of The Hague

The Dutch Healthcare System

International Health Centre the Hague



Registration

→ *Registering with a medical practice is the first step towards integration into the Dutch healthcare system*

- GP shortage in the Netherlands, which means that many practices are not accepting new patients
- Search for a GP practice in your area: www.independen.nl/huisarts
- Register before you get sick!

The role of the GP assistants



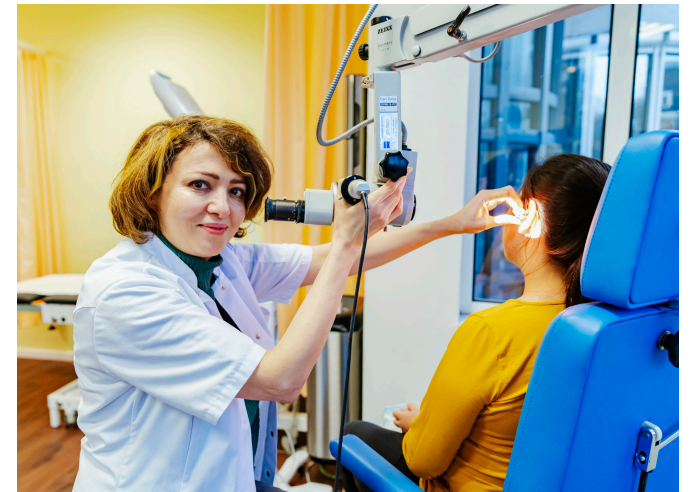
- The first point of contact at your GP practice
- GP assistants are also medically trained professionals
 - They will ask questions about your complaints to find the best possible appointment
 - They can also provide advice on a wide variety of illnesses
 - Trained to carry out a variety of treatments and tests, either independently or under the doctor's orders
- Advices and procedures performed by GP assistants are also chargeable

The role of the GP/Family Doctor

- Center of healthcare in the Netherlands & the first doctor you will see for all non-life threatening health issues
 - **Life threatening = Call 112!**
- Dutch doctors follow Dutch medical guidelines, which are likely to be different from those in your own country
- GPs also carry out medical procedures that in many countries are done by specialists, such as:
 - Minor surgeries, instertion of IUDs, PAP-smears, and others
- If you need to see a specialist, your GP will make a referral

Seeing a specialist doctor

- Dutch insurances always require a referral from the GP (Family doctor)
 - No referral = no reimbursement
- International insurances do not require a referral
 - Always check with your insurance company your coverage before booking an appointment
- Waiting times vary from weeks to months; independent clinics such as the IHCH often offer shorter waiting times
- Billing for specialist consultations = DBC
 - *Diagnosis-treatment combination*



Billing



GP consultations



Specialist consultations

Pregnancy & Birth



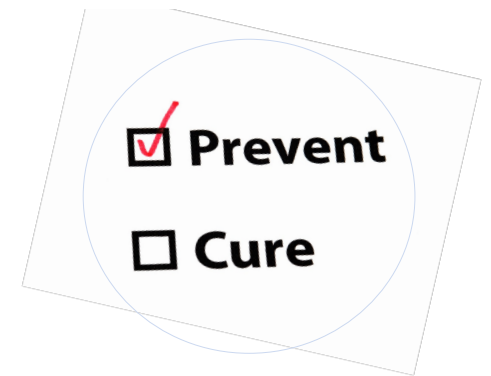
- The care for the majority of pregnant women & newborns is done by Midwives
- Obstetricians are only involved in case of complications or high risk cases
- Delivery conditions (at home or in hospital) are discussed together with the midwife
- ‘Kraamzorg’ (maternity care) – postpartum support at home in the first days after birth, together with midwife visits

Healthcare for Children



- If your child is sick → GP
 - If seeing a paediatrician is necessary, the GP will make a referral
- Development checks until the age of 4 years old and vaccinations are done by the Consultatiebureau (CJG)
 - CJG – Centrum Jeugd & Gezin (*Centre for Children and Families*)
- Vaccination schedule in the NL does not include some vaccines that are common in other countries, but private clinics (IHCH Child Health Clinic) do provide those extra vaccinations
 - Meningitis, chickenpox, rotavirus, BCG, etc.

Prevention Care



- Dutch system provides very limited preventive care
 - Screening for breast, cervical, colon and prostate cancer (age dependent)
- Health checks are not offered unless you are at risk
- At IHCH we offer a comprehensive prevention program
 - Multiple options of Health checks (well-woman, visas, life insurance, pre-employment, etc.)
 - Well-child check ups
 - Vaccinations (including travel)
 - For questions prevention@ezorg.nl or call at 070 306 5111 (Polyclinic)
- Dutch insurances do not cover / Some international insurances do

Emergencies

- **For life-threatening situations: call 112!**
- For medical concerns out of hours/weekends call the Hadoks Acute Zorg: **(070) 346 96 69**
- For medical emergencies visit the *Eerste Hulp Afdeling* (A&E department) in a hospital. Contact your GP first!
- If you do not have a GP but need to see a doctor urgently, visit the Huisartsenpost at the HMC Westeinde

QUESTIONS?

