

Written questions members Island Council for the Executive Council/ Government Commissioners.
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Issue : Duty to provide (emergency) medical care (Zorgplicht)
Date question : 5 April 2022
Sender : R.Merkman
Date answer : **(within 15 days)**
Responsible Com./Gov.Com. : M.A.U Francis
Responsible editor : Gerard Berkel

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there a legal obligation on the island to provide (emergency) medical care to everyone on the island whether insured by ZVK or not.

The hospital provides (emergency) medical care to everyone who enters the medical center. There is an ethical obligation to provide this care.

2. What is the policy in emergency situations when a resident or visitor has an emergency and their health insurance status may be unclear or not immediately accessible locally?
Again, the medical center on Statia provides care regardless of insurance status or medical coverage. However, we cannot determine how external parties deal with this matter, such as the helicopter, St Maarten Medical Center, etc.

Is it the policy in practice or by law to delay or deny medical care until the insurance or payment issues are clarified?

Anyone who comes to the QBMC is treated regardless of insurance. We often have treated patients and ended up not being paid for the services. But treatment goes first. In some cases, we have also had payment plans with individuals, if necessary.

What is the policy specifically at Queen Beatrix Medical Center in the abovementioned situations? Is there any budget reserved for such (incidental)situations on the island?

QBMC does not a budget for this. However, it is important for all people visiting the island to have some sort of (temporary) insurance