**A.** Within its competence, the **Directorate for the Organization and Operation of Nursing Units and Supervised Organizations**  inform us the following:

Towards the direction of strengthening and improving provided healthcare services, the Directorate for Organization and Operation of Nursing Units and Supervised Organizations inform us that the following actions have taken place,  for the benefit of all patients including those of  vulnerable social groups, refugees/immigrants etc.:

a) Four hundred and sixty five (465) new permanent posts of medical doctors were established, which will staff the existing independent Emergency Departments of public hospitals of the National Health System (NHS) (the relevant Mutual Ministerial Decree has already been published in Government Gazette, No. 3884, volume: B’, year: 2017), aiming at improving the capacity of these Departments to address effectively the needs of emergency cases

b) In order to ensure equality and non-discrimination of patients, who need to be operated in public hospitals, a Surgery List has been introduced to be implemented in all Hospitals concerning the prioritization of the cases ( the relevant Ministerial Decree published in Government Gazette, No. 4316, v. B’, year: 2016).This endeavor is the first systematic attempt to regulate a complex field by setting up common and transparent procedures to be followed by all Hospitals, when compiling the Surgery List.

c) The General Hospital of Karpathos has been established (the publication of the relevant Ministerial Decree concerning its operation is in progress), the healthcare services of which will contribute to the wide range healthcare coverage of the population

Furthermore, the right of uninsured and vulnerable social groups to free access to all public health services for nursing, medical and pharmaceutical care provision has been established by the article 33 of the Law 4368/21-02-2016 (Government Gazette 21/t.A’ 21/02/2016) and of Mutual Ministerial Decree No. A3(c)/G.P./oik. 25132/4-4-2016 (Government Gazette, No. 908/04/04/2016. B’, year: 2016).

Particularly, beneficiaries of free and unimpeded access to public health services are all uninsured and directly or indirectly insured to any Social Insurance Organizations, members of the Greek Diaspora, citizens of third countries who have documents that legalize their residence in Greece, as well as members of their families. Beneficiaries are also those who have lost their insurance coverage due to debts and are not entitled to healthcare services.

Furthermore all individuals must be acceptable to Primary Health Services and Emergency Hospital Departments, irrespectively their nationality, legal status or possession of legalization documents in accordance to the circular No. A3c/G.P.oik. 39364/31-05-2016, paragraphs 14 and 15.

**Β.** Within its competence,the **Directorate of Public Health** inform us the following:

1. **With regard to actions to promote healthy diet**

According to the World Health Organization (Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013-2020) chronic non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic lung diseases and diabetes are responsible for 63% of deaths worldwide. The main factors for increased morbidity and mortality due to these diseases are smoking, unhealthy eating habits, inadequate physical activity and alcohol abuse.

In addition, recent surveys have shown that the economic crisis in developed countries has*, inter alia,* an impact on nutrition, in particular, for socio-economically vulnerable families and their children, and as well as that in these time periods nutritional choices are unhealthy and include:

1. increased consumption of packaged food with high content of sugar, fat and salt
2. increased consumption of fast or pre-prepared food
3. less consumption of fruit, fresh vegetables, fish and meat.

Giving priority to the promotion of healthy diets, the Ministry of Health through its strategic objectives for the year 2017 has focused on improving the population's dietary habits with emphasis on the Mediterranean diet. Based on a proposal submitted by the National Committee on Nutrition Policy, the Ministry of Health adopted nutritional recommendations for the general population and for specific groups of the population (adults, infants, children and adolescents, pregnant, women who breastfeed and people aged 65 and over).

In addition, emphasizing the value of adopting healthy nutritional habits from infancy and early childhood, the dietary at nursing schools has been modified according to the Ministerial Decree No. Y1a/G.P. 76785 (Government Gazette, No. 3758, v. B’, year: 2017).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health participates in the implementation of the European Plan for the distribution of fruits, vegetables and milk at schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and the Ministry Of Education, according to the relevant European Commission Regulation.

Finally, it must be noted that through the Ministry of Education and Non-Governmental Organizations, programs have taken place regarding food distribution to school students of socio-economically vulnerable areas of the country.

1. **Regarding the promotion of breastfeeding**

The following actions have taken place the last year by our Service:

1) A Joint Ministerial Decree has been issued concerning the “Establishment of mother’s written consent in order to provide maternal milk substitute for infants in hospitals and maternity hospitals" (Government Gazette, No. 2127, v. B’, year: 2017). The Decree foresees that the grant of maternal milk substitutes to infants in public hospitals and in the country’s private clinics is permitted for acceptable medical reasons or after mother’s written consent. For this purpose, an appropriate consent form has to be signed by the mother and/or the healthcare professional, which will be registered in the infant’s and mother’s medical record. It must be underlined that in the new version of the Child Health Booklet a special chapter for the benefits of breastfeeding has been included in order all mothers to be informed.

2) A draft Ministerial Decree has been submitted concerning "Terms and conditions of recognition, development procedures, criteria, indicators and evaluation process and supervision of “Baby Friendly Hospitals”. This Decision regulates the process of assessment for the recognition of Baby Friendly Hospitals. in order to promote its implementation to our country

3) Cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity in order to be operated breastfeeding places at work with the necessary facilities for the mothers who want to breastfeed.

4) Actions regarding the financial support of the Institute of Child Health in order to promote the breastfeeding in our country.

5) Actions for raising awareness of healthcare professionals concerning training seminars about. breastfeeding

1. **Regarding Perinatal Care**

The legal framework concerning perinatal care has been defined by the article 2 of the Law No 4316/2014 (Government Gazette, No. 270, v. A’, year: 2014) taking into account: the Decision No. 2 of the 238th / 6-12-2012 of the Plenary of Central Board of Health (KESY) "Regarding the improvement of perinatal care in our country", the recognized right to health and the need for further improvement of perinatal care services in the country.

       The abovementioned legal framework provides:

• The establishment of Perinatal Centers and Neonatal Care Units for all levels of perinatal care .

• the compulsory monitoring of high-risk pregnancies and the compulsory conduct of high-risk births in Perinatal Centers. According to medical protocols for the screening of high-risk pregnancies and births, pregnants and women who are about to deliver, both being at high-risk, are referred to Perinatal Centers under the responsibility of the supervising doctor. The abovementioned protocols will be defined by Ministerial Decree, following the recommendations of Central Board of Health(KESY)

• the operation of public Perinatal Centers in all Health Regions and their interconnection with all healthcare units within the Health Region

• the adoption of a five-years National Action Plan, the configuration of a monitoring mechanism for perinatal care and the establishment of Permanent Committee in the Central Board of Health (ΚΕSY) for the Perinatal Care. The Permanent Committee of the Central Board of Health for perinatal care" was formed with the Ministerial Decision (No. Α1b / GP 58101 / 2-11-2016), and its task includes the monitoring of perinatal care provisions in the country, recommendations for its improvement and cooperation with the competent authorities of the Ministry in order to be submitted a National Action Plan regarding Perinatal Care

  All of the above measures aim to provide effective and quality perinatal care services to all pregnant and women who have recently given birth as well as to newborns according to their health status and regardless their place of residence, economic status or other social-economic barriers.

1. **Regarding pupil’s health**

Our Department recommended and finally achieved the establishment of a Working Group (Decision of the Secretary General of Health Νo. Protocol A1b/GP 13466 / 3-3-2017) with the task to propose:

• a list with the pharmaceutical products for the school pharmacy

• instructions to teachers about the provision of first aid in cases of emergency, as well as how the teachers will be trained in it.

**C. Within its competence, the Directorate of Primary Healthcare informs   
 the following:**

The recent Law *4486/2017* "Reform of Primary Health Care, Emergency   
Regulations of the Ministry of Health and other Provisions" (Government   
Gazette 115 *Ι* τ.Α) foresees the new legal framework concerning the provision of Primary Health Care Services to the entire population.

Relevant to paragraph 3 of the Article 1 of the aforementioned Law “The Primary   
Healthcare Services are organized and operated in accordance to the   
principles of free universal healthcare coverage of the population, the equal access to healthcare services, the special care for vulnerable social groups, the assurance of quality and safety of the providing services, the need of healthcare follow-up, the accountability of healthcare providers, the code of conduct of the medical profession or any other healthcare profession, the nearness of services at the place of residence or work, the connection between the different levels of the NHS healthcare Services, the appropriate patient’s reference to other Units or Services within the NHS; or contracted providers for diagnosis, treatment, hospitalization or further care, the cross-sectoral cooperation with local, social and scientific Bodies, the community’s awareness to healthcare matters and its active contribution in addressing the local healthcare needs. "

Furthermore, in the articles:a) 106 of the Law *4461/2017* (Government Gazette 38 *Ιv.A’.) and b)* 7 of the Law *4486/2017* concerning the Local Health Teams is described their aim and tasks, focusing on the implementation of appropriate interventions and actions for the prevention and promotion of health of the Population.

Finally, the article 20 of the Law 4486/2017 refers to the accountability of public healthcare providers, strengthening by this way the citizens’ role.