

SPECIAL PAPER

**Public and Private Sector Relationship in Health Systems and
Modern Greek Reality**

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Abstract

Introduction: The relationship between public and private sectors is a core characteristic of the way health systems function nowadays globally. At the same time, privatizations seem to have become an important economic factor.

Aim: The aim of the present study was: to examine the relationship between the public and the private sector in health systems, to review the relevant international experience, and investigate the possibility of implementing privatizations in the Greek Health System.

Conclusions: International experience demonstrates that mass privatization programs can lead to the depreciation of public health systems and also to the conversion of health to a marketable commodity. This can have an impact on the quality of health services, and it can also influence workers' rights, and increase insurance costs. In Greece, there is a public demand for a public health system, full-scale primary health care services, and the total re-planning of hospitals with: full financing, appropriate staffing, and high quality health services for all.

Key-words: privatization, public-private partnerships, financing, health system re-planning