



The Jednorodne Grupy Pacjentów – Polish experiences with DRGs



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The Polish health care system

- Poland has a mixed system of public and private health care financing.
- Total health expenditure amounts to about €667 per capita per year, which corresponds to 6.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP)

Purpose of the DRG system



- Prior to the introduction of DRG-system in Poland, hospital payment was based on a 'Catalogue of Health Care Products'
- Health care products were defined through specific diagnoses or procedures, and hospitals received a flat payment per admission based on the point value of a given product.
- The system was not based on systematic coding of all the diagnoses and procedures of the patients.
- The definitions of products changed every year and the number of items in the catalogue continued to increase, the system lacked transparency.

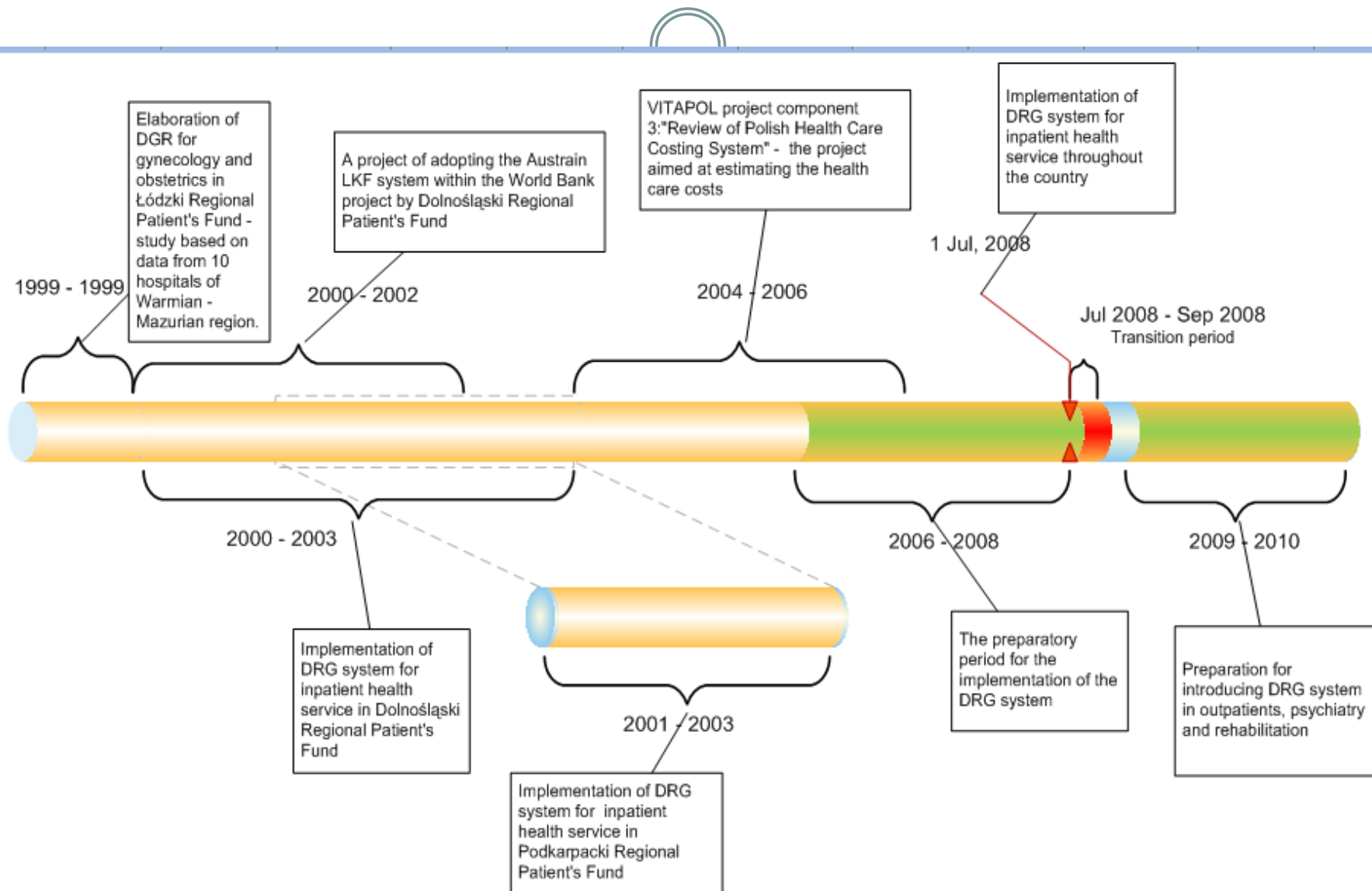
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The main goals of introducing DRG-based hospital payment in Poland were:

- to improve resource allocation to hospitals,
- to increase transparency of service provision.

Timeline: introduction of the national JGP system in Poland and prior sub-national uses of DRGs



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- In July 2008, a national DRG system was introduced in Poland.
- The British Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs) (Version 3.5) served as the starting point for the JGP system.
- Each JGP represents a distinct group of patients with similar characteristics (for example, diagnoses, procedures, patient age) and similar resource-consumption patterns.

Differences between British HRGs and Polish JGPs

	British HRGs (ver 3.5)	Polish JGPs
Procedure classification system	OPCS	ICD-9-PL
Selection of dominant procedure	Groupers selects highest ranked procedure	Provider selects most relevant procedure of hospital stay
Poly-trauma cases	Included in 'Pre-MDC'-like group	No specific groups. JGP score is inflated depending on the number of affected organs
Pediatric cases	Specific section only for neonates	Separate section for pediatrics
Number of chapters/sections	19	16
Number of groups	610	518

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- All hospitals (public and private) that have contracts with the NFZ must classify their patients using JGPs.
- The system covers only hospital inpatient services and differentiates between emergency admissions, planned admissions and day-care treatment episodes.
- Rehabilitation is only partly included in the JGP system.
- In October 2010 the NFZ started to introduce JGPs for neurological and cardiological rehabilitation patients treated at hospitals.