

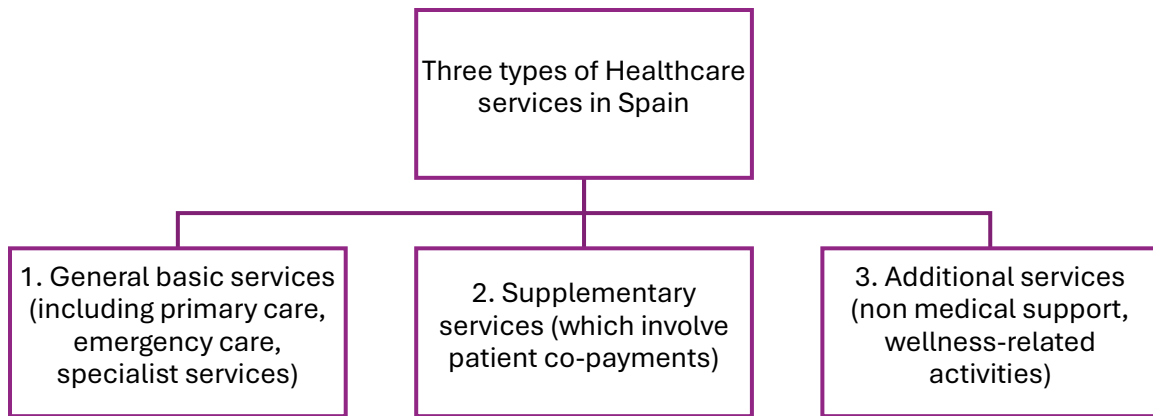
Healthcare system in Spain

General Overview:

- Spain has a universal, publicly funded healthcare system providing comprehensive medical care to all residents.
- The medical infrastructure is modern, and care is delivered by well-trained professionals.
- The public sector forms the backbone of healthcare, covering hospital stays and outpatient services.
- The system is based on equality, accessibility, and universal coverage, mainly funded through taxes.
- The private sector complements the public system, offering flexibility and high-quality services.
- Overall, Spain's healthcare system is considered one of the most efficient and advanced in Europe

The key points:

- The system has three parts: the National Health System (SNS) covering 95% of people, special schemes for civil servants and military, plus work-related insurance.
- About 3,000 public health centers provide general and specialized services; dental care is mostly private.
- Healthcare is decentralized: 17 regions manage services, while the Ministry of Health sets overall policies.
- Funded by taxes and social security, public healthcare is free or low-cost for all residents.
- Long waiting times in the public sector lead some to choose private insurance for quicker access.



Important Vocabulary:

medical care	Medizinische Versorgung
private insurance	Private Versicherung
demand	Nachfrage
gross domestic product (GDP)	Bruttoinlandsprodukt
taxes	Steuern
healthcare expenditures	Gesundheitsausgaben
decentralized	Dezentralisiert
contributions	Beiträge
revenues	Einnahmen
subsidized	Subventioniert
purchasing	Einkauf / Beschaffung
accessibility	Zugänglichkeit
comprehensive	Umfassend

Questions for Discussion:

- What do you think about the fact that you can't opt out of the Spanish health insurance system?
- Has anyone here ever had medical treatment in Spain? And how did you find the quality of care?