

Healthcare in Italy

In 2020, the Italian healthcare system was **ranked** the fourth best in the world by the World Health Organisation, with only the Spanish system ranked higher in Europe.

Although the **Ministry of Health** is responsible for the administration of the Health Service, much of the control has been passed to the Regions and onto the local health authorities known as ASL (Azienda di Sanità Locale).

The Italian national healthcare service (SSN, Servizio Sanitario Nazionale) was created in 1978 to replace a previous system based on a multitude of **insurance** schemes. The SSN was inspired by the British National Health Service and has two **underlying** principles. Firstly, every Italian citizen and foreign resident has the right to healthcare and, secondly, the system covers all necessary treatments. Local Health Units (USL) are responsible for the management of all health services in their area and private providers can also operate within the SSN.

There have been a number of reforms to the SSN since the early 90s. Competition has been increased by allowing citizens to choose their **healthcare provider**. Payments have been regularized and a small amount of **co-payment** has been introduced. Later reforms were aimed at increasing planning at the regional level and increasing efficiency of all managers within the SSN. Managers were placed on fixed contracts with regular **performance reviews**. The latest reforms are aimed at reducing **expenditure** and improving planning.

co-payment: *partecipazione alle spese (ticket per le prestazioni)*

expenditure: *spesa*

healthcare provider: *fornitore di assistenza sanitaria*

insurance: *assicurazione*

Ministry of Health: *Ministro della Sanità*

performance review: *revisione delle prestazioni*

to rank: *classificare*

underlying: *sottintesi*

Decide if the following statements are true or false. Then, correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The Spanish healthcare system is as good as the Italian health system. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. The Regions and the local health authorities known as ASL control a large part of the administration. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. The British system was used as a model for the Italian health system. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Only Italian citizens can be assisted by the Italian health system. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. The Italian health system has been the same since 1990. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. In the last few years reforms of the system have tried to reduce expenses. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |