



Taking health to heart



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH

Our tasks

We provide competence in healthcare, promote healthy lifestyles and work for the general well-being of the public. We are responsible for ensuring that our healthcare system remains efficient and affordable.

There is more to being healthy than just not being ill. People can only live productive and autonomous lives if they enjoy good health. The most important requirements for health are set out in the Federal Constitution. We are responsible for more than 20 laws and numerous ordinances that are based on these provisions.

The range of our tasks is correspondingly broad: We are responsible for social health and accident insurance, regulations for chemicals, medicines, cosmetic products and utility articles, legislation in the areas of biosafety, research on humans and transplantation medicine, health promotion, national programmes combating addiction and sexually transmitted diseases, radiation protection, and the regulation of university medical and health professionals. Furthermore, we represent Switzerland's interests in health matters in international organisations and in dealings with other countries.

Our goals

The people in our country should be able to deal competently and responsibly with their health, and our health care system should continue to deliver high quality care and be affordable and accessible to all.

We face considerable challenges: the number of older people is growing and there is a rise in chronic diseases, demographic trends and advances in medical technology are pushing up costs, the healthcare system is not transparent enough and can only be controlled to a certain extent. To cope with these challenges in a sustainable manner, the Federal Council has adopted the 'Health 2020' strategy which contains 36 measures to improve the quality of life of the people in our country, increase equality of opportunity and improve the transparency and quality of care. The FOPH will play a major role in implementing this. Our aim is to prepare Switzerland's healthcare system optimally for the future.

Cooperation in Switzerland

The Swiss health system has a federal structure, with the Confederation and cantons sharing responsibilities. The FOPH plays the main role in organising the health system at federal level and in preparing political decisions. The cantons are our partners in developing policies and regulations and overseeing the healthcare system, they ensure that federal legislation is implemented and are responsible for healthcare provision.

International cooperation

We represent Switzerland's interests abroad in health matters. Switzerland participates actively in international organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and it cooperates with other states and organisations, including the European Union. In March 2012 the Federal Council adopted the 'Swiss Health Foreign Policy', which forms the framework for Switzerland's coherent and effective involvement in health matters in other countries.

About us

Around 600 people with different training and skills work with us and contribute to the well-being of the Swiss population.

Director				
Communication and Campaigns	Health and Accident Insurance	Health Policy	Public Health	Consumer Protection
Management Services	Health Care Services	Healthcare Professions	National Prevention Programmes	Radiological Protection
International Affairs	Insurance Supervision	Health Strategies	Communicable Diseases	Chemical Products
Legal Affairs		Tabacco Prevention Fund	Biomedicine	Notification Authority for chemicals
Resource Management		Evaluation and Research Service		

■ Directorates ■ Divisions



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