Press release

No new cases of leprosy have been registered in Kazakhstan for seven years

There is a decrease in the incidence of leprosy (Hansen's disease) in Kazakhstan today. There are no children or teenagers among the patients. Leprosy affects only the elderly population, which is typical for the extinction of the infection.

The decrease in the incidence of leprosy in the country is steady. Kazakhstan belongs to the countries with a low burden of the disease. In our country, leprosy is virtually eliminated. In recent years, only isolated cases have been registered, only 2 patients have been identified in 10 years, the last one in 2017. At the beginning of 2025, 224 leprosy patients and 222 contact persons live in Kazakhstan.

In Kazakhstan, leprosy began to be treated almost a hundred years ago, since 1929, when the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR decided to organize a leprosarium in the Kazakh SSR. Today, the Kazakh Republican Leprosarium is a specialized medical institution of a special type that provides not only specific treatment, but also rehabilitation of its patients. The leprosarium is located in the Kyzylorda region and has two dispensaries. In addition to special treatment, patients receive all the necessary medical care: surgical, ophthalmological, dental, therapeutic, as well as rehabilitation.

- "A leprosarium is not a place for isolating patients. Registered patients have the opportunity to receive health and rehabilitation services from other medical organizations in the country. Among the patients there are people with disabilities who need constant medical care, the homeless, the abandoned, the sick without relatives and without a fixed place of residence, and those in need of social shelter. Medical examination of patients with leprosy is carried out for life due to the risk of recurrence," says Moldagali Seitaliev, chief physician of the Kazakh Republican Leprosarium.

Throughout the history of leprosy treatment, the country's doctors have used various tactics. At first, the activities were mainly aimed at identifying and isolating patients. Then the task of chemotherapy came to the fore. Currently, medical efforts are aimed at preventing leprosy, preventing disability, and rehabilitating patients to prevent relapse.