

## The region of Lombardy cuts the prescription charge by half

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The prescription charge in Lombardy will be halved from the current €30 to a maximum of €15. During the first meeting in the regional council, **the Health Services Councillor Giulio Gallera**, who has been reconfirmed in this position, has announced the reduction of the costs for specialist examinations. “In December 2016, the Central Government rejected our resolution and made us waste a year. However, fortunately, now a million and a half of Lombard citizens can benefit from a 50% reduction of the prescription charge, that will be reduced from a maximum of €30 to a maximum of €15.”

**This resolution must now be assessed by the council committee in charge**, and will become effective from the fifteenth working day after the approval.

“Thanks to this resolution, **the Region of Lombardy will invest €90 million to guarantee additional exemptions** to Lombard citizens, while waiting for the occasion to eliminate the prescription charge completely,” Councillor Gallera has added.

**An average of €7.80 against €10 of the national average.**The maximum cost of the prescription charge will then be of **€36 (national prescription charge) plus €15 (regional prescription charge) = €51**, and no more the €66 (36+30) people who needed a chest CAT or a magnetic resonance to the

**backbone** have had to pay until now. Also, a **colonoscopy**, which today has a cost of €36 for the national prescription charge and €22.80 for the regional prescription charge (€58.80), will cost €51 (36 +15). In this way, the average of the maximum cost of the regional prescription charge will be €7.80 instead of €10 of the national one.

**ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS** – The €20 million for the reduction of the regional prescription charge are to be added to the €70 million that the Region of Lombardy has already invested to guarantee additional exemptions, beyond the national ones. These include: users up to **14 years old** (42 million); adults in particular conditions of **difficulty, unemployed or receiving redundancy payments** (22 million) ;from 2015, citizens having an **annual fiscal household income which is not higher than €18,000**, and their dependent relatives (6 million); this exemption has been granted to about 150,000 people,” Gallera has added.

**54% OF THE RECIPIENTS ARE EXEMPTED** – The Councillor has also stated that about 4 million and one-hundred thousand users in Lombardy, on a total of 7 million and a half of people, do not pay the prescription charge. “These users benefit from 70% of the specialist prescriptions that are guaranteed (27 million) and 74% of the economic value of the performances that are given go them.”

The list of all the exemptions, or those applied for related performances (for example those with a crippling disease or due to an accident) can be seen in the following website:

<http://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/64762a83-002f447aa15183e309a2267f/tabella+esenzioni+specialistica+ambulatoriale+18012018.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=64762a83-002f-447a-a151-83e309a2267f>

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