

## Is Mandatory Vaccination against Covid-19 among Healthcare Personnel, Legal?

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In 2020 a new strain of coronavirus (2019-nCoV, Covid-19) appeared on the world stage, which greatly affects the elderly and to which patients with underlying diseases are vulnerable [1]. Health care personnel (nursing personnel, midwives, physicians, paramedics) are at high risk of transmitting infection due to instant contact with patients. There are also pragmatic reasons for prioritizing health care personnel at high to very high risk of infection [2]. A cross sectional study conducted in Greece among 1571 health workers. 803 health workers intended to get vaccinated and 768 health workers intended to decline vaccination. Those who intended to get vaccinated pointed as reason for their preference the control of the pandemic and the protection of themselves and their families. On the contrary, reasons that lead workers to decline vaccination is inadequate information about the vaccines or concerns about vaccine safety [3]. Another reason for the vaccination intention in Greece is the effectiveness of lockdown and the pandemic management from the public hospitals [4]. Furthermore, Greece Republic has already mandated coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination for health workers in different health units. (Law 4820/2021 Article 206) [5]. Thus mandatory vaccination policies impose individual consequences for non-vaccination [6] the Greek Government proceeded to suspension of work of unvaccinated health workers. Health workers remained suspended from work without full pay. Mandatory vaccination must have legislative support [6]. A part of the unvaccinated health workers applied to the Court pointed that vaccination violates article 6§1 of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights "Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be 1. carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information. The consent should, where appropriate, be express and may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice". The Supreme Court of Greece (ΣΤΕ) has decided that the suspension is legal because vaccination promotes the public good and public health, especially the health of vulnerable patients furthermore vaccines reduce-confront the pandemic [7].

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