

Changes concerning benefit periods (January 2022).

After the changes from 1 January 2022 all previous incapacities for work are counted to the 182-day allowance period, **provided there is no break of more than 60 days between them**. The benefit period is the period of incapacity for work for which persons covered by sickness insurance are entitled to sickness benefit. Until now, the maximum benefit period was 182 days, whereas if the disease was caused by tuberculosis or the incapacity for work occurred during pregnancy, the benefit period was extended to 270 days. As a result of the amendment to the act on the social insurance system and some other acts, the rule was introduced that all periods of previous incapacity for work will be included in the same benefit period, provided that the interval between illnesses does not exceed 60 days. From 2022, the reason for the inability to work before and after the break is irrelevant. However, the period of incapacity for work prior to a break of up to 60 days will not be counted towards the benefit period, if after the break incapacity occurs during pregnancy.

Until now, the sickness benefit for the period of stay in the hospital was, as a rule, 70% of the allowance calculation basis. From 2022, the monthly sickness benefit constitutes 80%.