

## **Online healthcare**

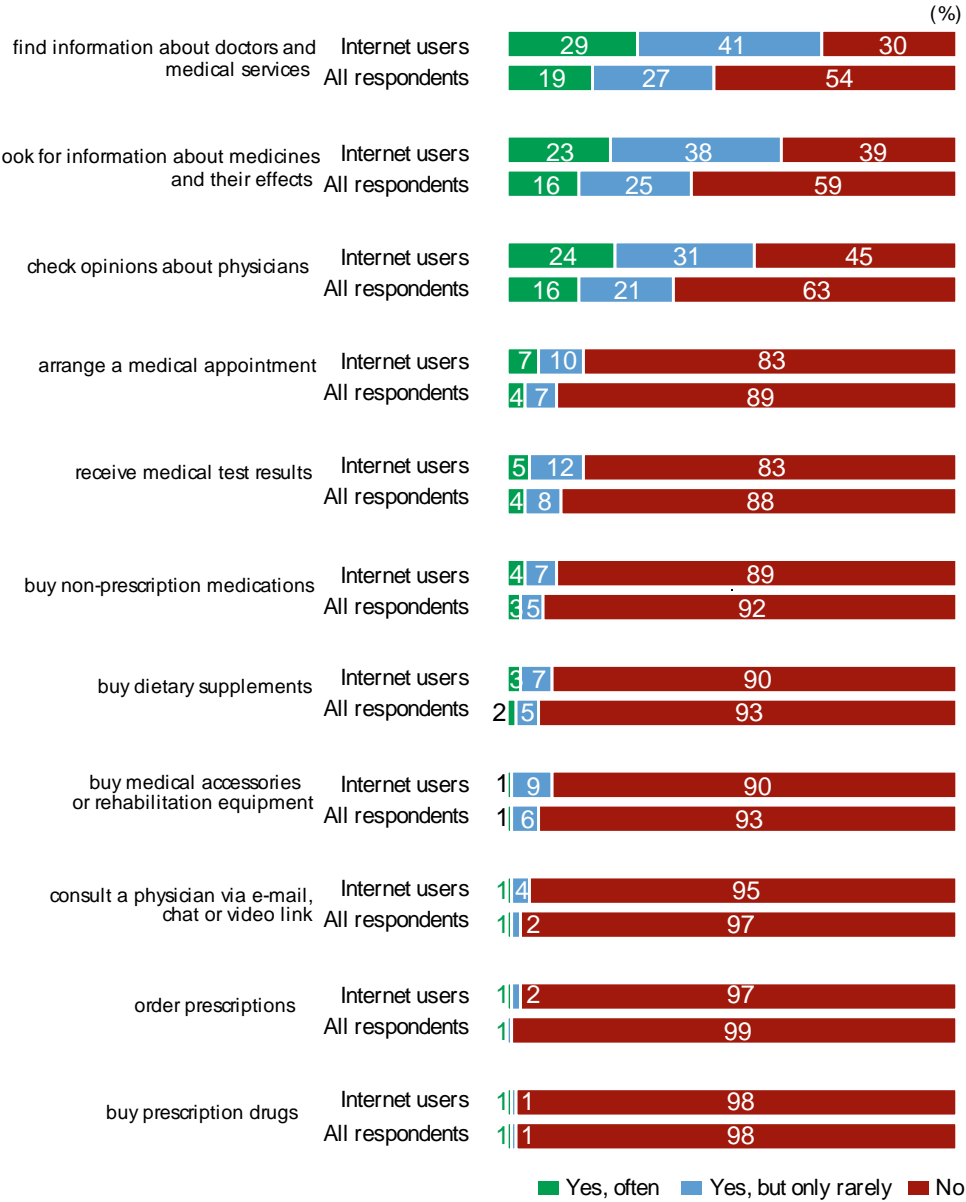
In this and the last decade there has been a dynamic growth in the number of internet users. Currently, two-thirds of Poles (66%) are regular users. At the same time the internet has changed qualitatively, the range of services and applications that can be used online has expanded. Health, understandably, is located in the centre of people's interest and is one of the most important values directing human actions. It is no surprise that a vast majority of internet users do it for medical and health-related purposes.

Declarations of respondents indicate that the internet is used primarily to search for information: general information about physicians and medical services (70% of internet users), slightly less frequently on medicines and their effects (61%). Moreover, it is used to check opinions on doctors (55%).

The scale of internet use to contact medical institutions is much smaller. Medical appointments online were mentioned by 17% of internet users, and the same proportion receive test results online. Only very few people consult a doctor online, e.g. via e-mail, chat or video link (5%), or order a prescription for drugs in this way (3%).

The scale of internet use to purchase drugs and medical equipment is limited. Roughly one in ten internet users buys non-prescription medicines online, a similar proportion order dietary supplements and declare purchasing medical accessories and rehabilitation equipment. Very few internet users (2%) sometimes buy prescription drugs online.

**Do you ever do the following activities online**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Health Online", November 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2016, N=981. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.