A brief introduction to the Swedish health-care system

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Sweden

- 9 500 000 inhabitants
- 85 % live in the cities
- 21 / km²
Funding of the health care

- About 9 % of GDP
- Taxpayer-funded
  - Approx 97 % of medical costs
- Patient fees
- High-cost ceiling
  - Patient fee max 110 €/year
  - Prescribed medications 220 €/year
Organization

• Shared responsibility
  • Central government
  • County councils
  • Municipalities

• The Health and Medical Service Act regulates the responsibility for county councils and municipalities.

• 21 counties
  • 61 Hospitals with ER 24/7
  • 7 university hospitals
  • Private care clinics

• 290 municipalities
Central government

- The National Board of Health and Welfare
  - Supervision
  - Expert
  - Licenses
- Establish principles and guidelines
- Set the political agenda for health and medical care
- Medical school
- Reaching agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Health care guarantee

- Introduced 2005 as a part of the law.
- Maximum:
  - 0 days contact with primary care (phone)
  - 7 days doctors appointment in primary care
  - 90 days to appointment with a specialist (if referred)
  - 90 days to treatment / surgery
Economical stimulation 2014

- Aprox 1 million € divided between the counties each year
- Min 70% (80%)/ month
  - to a specialist within 60 days
  - To surgery / treatment within 60 days
- Correct reports on waiting time 95% / month
County councils

- Elected by the inhabitants in the county
- 90% health care, 10% culture, infrastructure etc
- Responsible for the health care
- Represented by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions in agreements with the central government
- Finance by
  - Taxation
  - Fees
  - Government subsidies
Municipalities

- Care of the
  - Elderly
  - Physical och psychological disorders
- Provide support and service after hospital care
- School health care
Problems

- Lack of hospital beds, 2,7/1000 inhabitants (OECD-statistics)
- Lack of nurses, at least in nursing
- Heavy administration for doctors
Do we have equal right to health care in Sweden?