

Report from Helse Nord (Regional health authority of northern Norway)

Organization

This year the Parliament determine changes in municipal structure. There will be fewer municipalities (428 to 358/363). The counties will be converted into fewer regions. (19 counties 10 regions). The discussion in the north is whether there should be one or two regions from the current three counties. This affects, in itself, not the organization of Helse Nord.

It is now carried out a national study on the organization of hospitals, and outlined several alternatives. The majority recommend a model much like the one we have today, with a regional decision-making level.

Internally in Helse Nord, before summer, we will decide whether we should change the surgical emergency services incl. maternity care at two of the smallest hospitals, Narvik and Lofoten.

Service availability

This year is one of the main targets to reduce waiting time for treatment. The average waiting time is currently about 65 days. The waiting time will be reduced to 60 days, which is the national target.

Another main objective is to reduce variations in consumption of specialist services that are not medically justified, but hangs more with organization and medical practice.

The last thing I would mention is to strengthen health services, capacity and quality, to people with mental illness and substance abuse. A quality indicator is coercion

Investments in buildings and equipment

In Helse Nord, we have under way a modernization program over several years for hospitals. Some we build out and renovate, while some places we build a new hospital. The latter is new Kirkenes Hospital put into service this summer.

The next nine years will cost approximately 10, 5 billion. In heavy 3 billion in equipment.

Barents Cooperation and Nordic cooperation.

First week in April we will visit Arkhangelsk (Helse Nord RHF and University Hospital). We will sign a new cooperation agreement between Helse Nord RHF and Health Minister in Arkhangelsk. It is the continuation of a good cooperation over many years. We look forward to this visit.

We also have good cooperation with Murmansk. Where we signed the latest agreement in 2013.

We participate in the planning of the exercise Barents Rescue in Karelia in Russian. We will participate with two teams - totaling at least 10 health professionals (doctors and nurses). In

addition some others. There are six different scenarios. Overall plan conference in Petrozavodsk 13.-15. June and exercise the first week of September.

In Nordic cooperation, we have developed a good working relationship between Health North and regions in Northern Finland and northern Sweden. We have an agreement for ambulance services across borders from 2011, and in 2015, we signed a new overall cooperation agreement. The next meeting is June 1 in Tromsø. In this meeting we will discuss and decide on an action plan for the coming years; what issues we will give priority in the coming years.