

E.A.N.A.

BUDOPES

Country report from Sweden, fall meeting in ~~Paris~~ nov 28-29, 2008.

As we previously have reported, approximately 50% of the private doctors in Sweden work under a national contract. This contract is regulated by a law; "the law on reimbursement for doctors".

Since 1995 we have not been able to sell / get a substitute, to our practices.

As I have previously written, the government produced a memorandum last year, proposing a reinstallation of substitutes within the law. The new law-text was supposed to be activated on July 1, 2008 but was temporarily stopped.

However, in april 2009 we will once again be able to sell our practice and let our national contracts over to new colleagues, this has been our goal for a long time and we are quite pleased.

The only flaw is that there will be an exceptions for GP's, they will not be able to get substitutes within the law. This fact is due to the implementation of a new system in primary health care: "The free choice system within the primary health care".

I have mentioned the report on family medicine at an earlier meeting. This report suggests an obligatory for regions to introduce a right for specialists in family medicine to open new offices. It will be regulated by law, and in effect by dec. 31, 2010 at the latest. We will then have many different systems, one for each region. Most systems will probably look alike, with a financial base in capitation rather than fee for service. The capitation will not be given to the GP's, contacts will be made with owner groups. There is a great risk that the primary health care market will be, more or less, taken over by the big (nowdays also multinational) companies.

"The free choice system in primary health care" will probably be followed by "The free choice system in open specialist care". The government has given a mission, to the same working group who produced the report on family medicine, to produce a new system to regulate reimbursement to private health care producers in the open health care sector (primary health care excluded). This will probably be the end of "the old law on reimbursements for doctors. There is a clear intention to create more privately produced health care, however will there be room for private physicians?



Gunnar Welanders
President, SPLF