

Swiss National Report 2010

Switzerland has actually two major problems: cost and shortage of primary care doctors. The Parliament is dealing now with an incitation to group medical practice which should change the whole picture. To stimulate patients to visit a group practice rather than an individual surgery, participations will be increased from 10% to 20% in case they seek advice by the latter. Insurances are encouraged to make attractive contracts with group practices (basically capitation) and have attractive premiums for patients/insured people declaring themselves ready to go to a group practice with a commitment for the next 3 years. The temporary dispositions conclude with a wish to increase the proportion of this type of primary care delivery by 50% in the next 3 years. But unfortunately there is not a single word on financing. To develop a group practice for 6-8 practitioners with x-rays and lab. Is a matter of about 3-4 millions Swiss Francs. Banks are pretty reluctant to such loans and it is rather unrealistic to imagine determined groups of colleagues ready to fight for a few years without failure for such development. The result is the promotion of such new organisations is left up to insurers or financial businesses of unclear background. And it takes place where the financial perspectives and success is more or less guaranteed, i.e. in cities rather than in the country where the need are urgent...

A new law on prevention is also under discussion. It has the main merit of conscience taking of the importance of secondary prevention and setting up a coordination frame for this purpose rather than a fundamental reorientation of the system. It is aiming in particular at drug dependency and tobacco. But very few financial means are put into play. It is an advance in methodology, but certainly no change in the basic settings of health system.