Health Care System and Role of Nurses in Norwegian Health Care

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A national health system is the result of a dynamic interplay between health needs, public expectations, professions, interest groups and available resources.

As all these elements change over time, the system is in constant evolution.
Specialist health care services

- include hospitals for patients with somatic or mental disorders, out-patients departments, centers for training and rehabilitation, institutions for drug addicts, centres for re-education for chronically ill patients and disabled, pre-hospital services and private specialists, laboratories and x-ray facilities.
Primary health care services

- include general practice, pregnancy and antenatal care, health clinics for mother and child, school clinics, mental health care, nursing homes, rehabilitation, physiotherapy, communicable disease control, preventive medicine, environmental health and health promotion.
The Coordination Reform

- Increasing number of older persons
- Increase in NCDs

Solutions - Best effective care level
- Empower patients and family to care for themselves – Health teaching
- Focus on prevention
- Care for patients in the municipality – close to home

- Nurses have a central role to play in successful implementation
The Ministry of Health and Care Services formsulates and implements the national health policy with the help of several subordinate institutions.

The Norwegian Directorate of Health is a specialized agency under the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services. It is responsible for the compilation of various ordinances, national guidelines and campaigns. It also advises the ministries concerned on health policy and legislation.
Regulation of Norwegian Health Care

- Health Personnel Act of 1999
  - regulates practice all health personnel and mandates personal responsibility for practice
- Specialized Health Services Act (1999) and Municipal Health Care Services Act (2011)
  - mandate responsibility for provision of quality care and a setting conducive to professional practice.
- Patient Rights Act of 1999
- Working Environment Act of 2005
Empowering Factors

• Nurses organization
• Nursing practice – what is nursing and what do nurses do?
• Nursing education
• Legal framework
• Contribution of nurses
• National health policy and administration
• Culture and status of women in society
Norwegian Nurses Organization
1912 - 2012
Nursing is...

«not the disease primarily, but the sick person himself and the experience of the illness»

- Florence Nightingale (1860), ( s. 298).
What do nurses do?

- Provide direct care to patients and families
- Screen for early diagnosis and intervention
- Health teaching
- Manage symptoms of illness and disease
- Manage medical treatment
- Coordinate care across the trajectory of service 24/7
- Serve in many capacities across the lifespan
Facts about nursing in Norway

- Nursing Service (RNs and practical nurses) = over 50% of health care resource consumption
- RNs: the largest health profession
- Nurses per capita: 14.2 per 1000*
- Physicians per capita: 4 per 1000*

- 28 nursing colleges, aprox.4500 new nursing students per year
- Nurses work in many roles and functions in all areas of the health care system

*OECD Health at a Glance, 2009
# Nursing Education in Norway

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Specialization in Nursing

**Pediatric nursing**
Cancer, Pulmonary care, Cardiac care, Diabetes care, Kidney, Stroke, Eye, Urology, Gastroenterology, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Ear-Nose-Throat, Orthopedic nursing, Neurological nursing, Neural surgery nursing, Acute and Critical Care Nursing Nurse Anesthetist Intensive care nursing Theater nursing Acute care nursing

**Nurse Midwifery***
Geriatric nurse practitioner Mental health nursing Public health nursing Occupational health nursing

* Authorized
Good working environment and Good nursing care go hand in hand

NNO has two goals:

- Nurses shall have a working situation that is conducive to health, meaningful and that is inclusive.
- Nurses shall provide high quality health care that is safe, coordinated and effective.
As workloads in hospitals increase, so does mortality...

But as nurse education increases, mortality decreases...

Staffing (Patients per nurse)

Education (% of nurses with degrees)
Who speaks out for nursing?

- Ministry
- Directorate of health
- Regulatory body
- National Research Council
- Norwegian Knowledge Center for the Health Service
- Norwegian Board of Health Supervision