

The National Strategy for Work in Cancer Care

Quality, expertise and capacity is a document of 218 pages which deals with the need for an updated cancer strategy in Norway. The report contains over 200 proposals for action aimed at decision makers and managers at several levels, as well as practitioners in prevention activities and at all levels of health and social services.

The main instruments referred to in the report are:

- Establishing national guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up (national action programs).
- Establish national plans for the introduction of new diagnostics and new treatment in which research skills and research methods are incorporated into routine health service functions.
- Monitoring (registration) of the methods and results of treatment through national registration (quality records). The information must form the basis for skills upgrading, development of improved treatment methods and organization of the service.
- Capacity must be in harmony with the increase in the number of new cancer cases.
- Statutory duties such as wait times must be complied with.
- Training of staff must be based on a long term plan.
- Funding must be controlled by the medical criteria for prioritization. Technical expertise must be involved further with the choice of instruments, even if the health service will operate within the regular budget.
- Health services, including nursing homes and social assistance initiatives in local communities (municipalities) have to get a clearer and more central role in service provision.

Standardized guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment, research programs including the introduction of new methods and systematic registration measures that promote good cancer care and that serve individuals. Guidelines ensure that the criteria should be based on the diagnosis, and treatment is identified and assessed. Living conditions, rehabilitation and long-term monitoring must be incorporated. However, it is society's overarching instrument that secures the right priorities. Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up (action programs) with the corresponding registration is therefore absolutely pivotal if we