

Finnish health care reform

**Ms Paula Risikko,
Finnish Minister of
Health and Social Services**

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Key principles of the Finnish health care system

- Residence-based, universal and equal right to health services
- Local authorities (municipalities) are responsible for organising primary health care and specialised medical care
- Public services are mainly funded by tax revenues collected by the state and municipalities.
 - Client charges are collected covering 5–10 % of costs
- Relatively low health expenditure as share of GDP
 - Finland 8,4 % ; OECD average 9,0 %
 - a challenge or a strength?

Provision of health care services

- The local authorities are in charge of organising all health care services
- Primary health care is mainly provided in 200 municipal health centres
- Specialised medical care is provided in 21 hospital districts
- The employers shall organise preventive occupational health services for their employees
- The public health care services are supplemented by private services
 - A part of their costs is reimbursed under the health insurance system

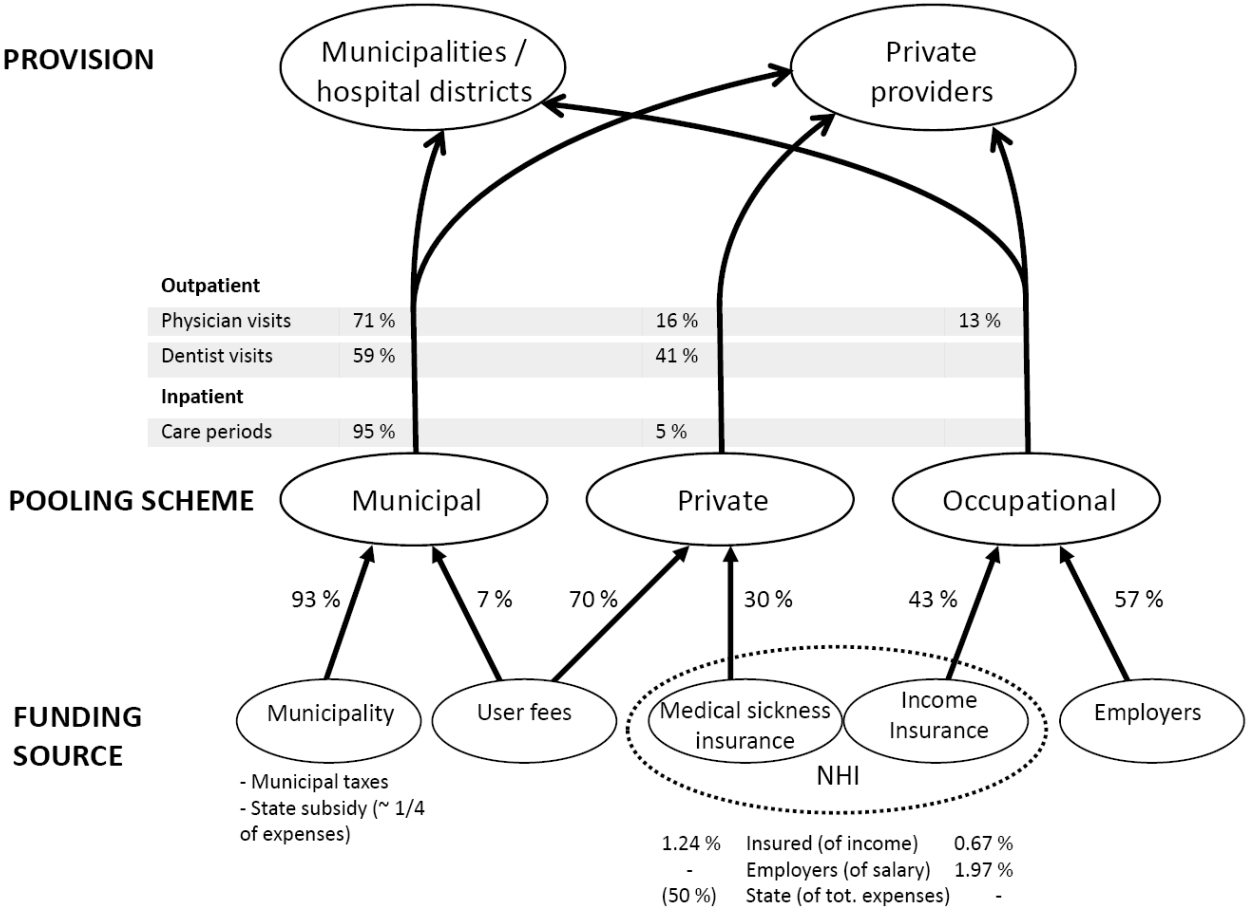
1. Challenges of Finnish health care services

- Health care effectiveness
 - avoidable mortality score average
 - relatively weak primary care
- Equity problems between
 - population groups
 - geographic areas
- Relatively low patient status
 - little patient choice or involvement

2. Challenges of service structures in Finland

- Relatively small units (municipalities) responsible
- Service delivery fragmentation
 - parallel systems for providing health services: the municipal, the private and the occupational health system
- Lack of integration
 - health and social care
 - primary and secondary care

3. Challenges in Funding: The parallel funding and provision arrangements in Finnish health care



Improving health care services

The new Health Care Act proposal

- Clients freedom to choose the place of care
- Guaranteeing equal access to services
- Improving the quality of care and patient safety
- The new Health Care Act is proposed to enter into force on 1 May 2011

National action programs for

- Restructuring local government and services (PARAS)
- National Development Program for Social Welfare and Health Care (KASTE)
- Policy program for health promotion
- National program for mental care
- National program primary care; e.g. implementation of Chronic Care Model
- e-health: national patient record archive etc.

Improving the financing system of health care

- Reform of the financing system is needed
- Assessment of the existing system 2010-11

From an issue-by-issue perspective to overall development framework

Supervision and development

