



Primary health care in Denmark

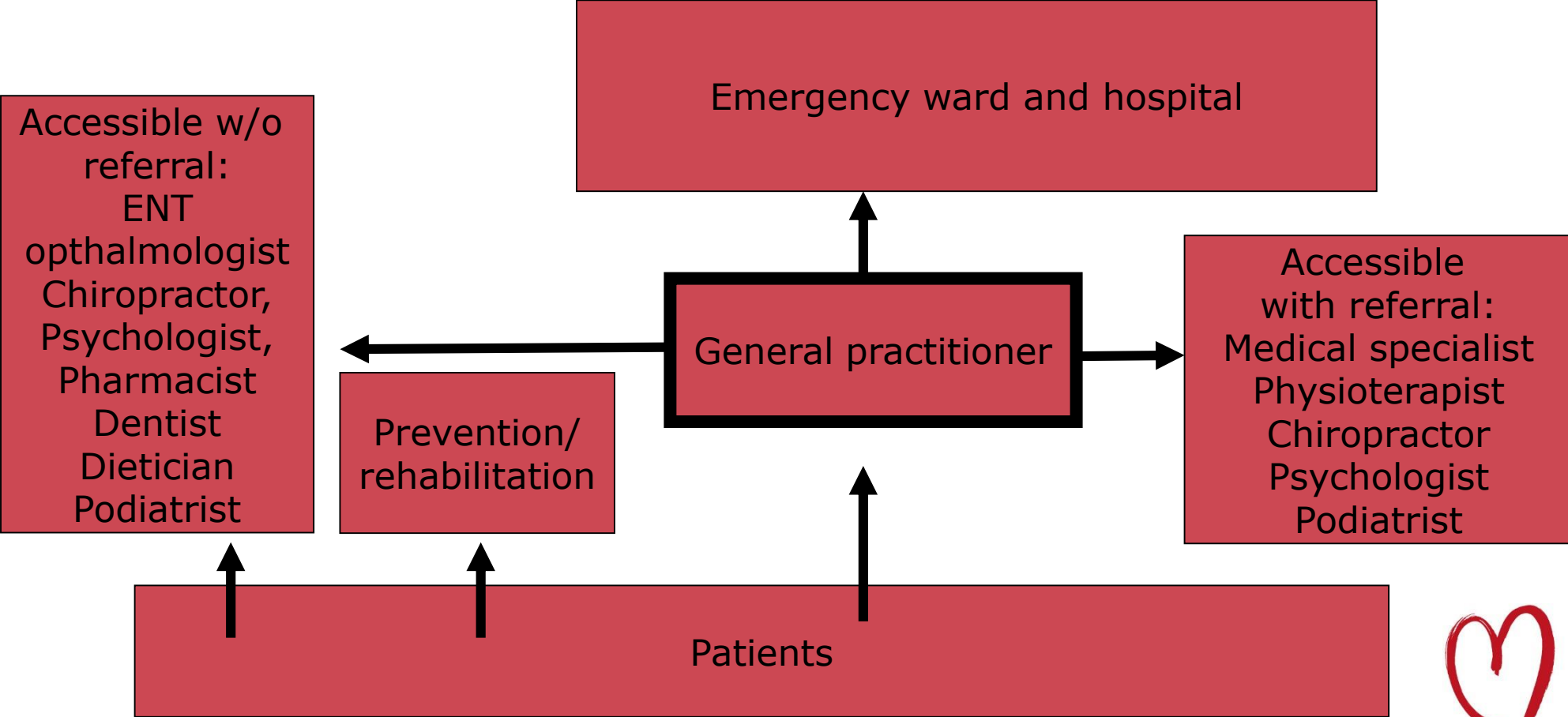
WONCA Europe 2016



WONCA EUROPE CONFERENCE 15-18 JUNE 2016 • Copenhagen • Denmark



Organisation of health care in DK



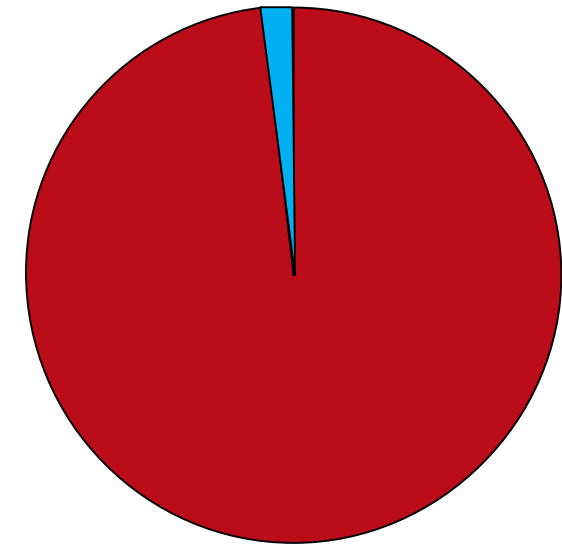


The primary health care system in DK

- ♡ Free access for all regardless of their economic situation
- ♡ Even demographic distribution of general practitioners
- ♡ Listed patients
- ♡ Gatekeeper and pilot to most health care services

The Danish national health insurance (1)

- ♡ All citizens are covered by the national health insurance
- ♡ **Group 1 = 99.3 %**
No co-payment in the primary care sector with few exceptions, patients are affiliated to one clinic and they need a referral to other specialists.
- ♡ **Group 2 = 0.7 %**
Co-payment, but you can choose any GP or other specialist you want without referral. You have a higher co-payment at dentists etc.



The Danish national health insurance (2)

♡ Group 1 patients:

- ♡ Are affiliated to one clinic - other GPs can treat you in emergency situations, e.g. if the practitioner or GP is on holiday
- ♡ Can choose a new GP every month, the price is 15 \$
- ♡ Only a few percent choose a new GP on their own initiative
- ♡ The GPs in average have 1,600 affiliated patients

The Danish national health insurance (3)

- ♥ Patients can choose between any available GP within a distance of 15 km (5 km in Copenhagen)
- ♥ The GP has to accept the patient if the distance exceeds 15/5 km in some cases
- ♥ The patient is entitled to choose between at least two GPs
- ♥ The GP is obliged to pay home visits within the 15 km distance

The Danish GP (1)

- ♥ Works under the contract between regions and the GP trade union, the organisation of GPs
- ♥ The GPs manage and equip their own clinics and hire staff (i.e. nurses, lab technicians, secretaries)

2016	Male	Female
	50,1 %	49,9 %
Average age	55 years	50 years

Approximately 33% of Danish GPs are 60+ years old

Key figures for the GPs in 2016

4,500 GPs in Denmark

	Number of GPs %	Number of Clinics %
Single practices	33.7	58.3
Partnership practices*	66.3	41.7

♥ Types of partnership practices*:

- ♥ Group practices: 2+ single practices share facilities and staff, have separate patient lists and economy
- ♥ Partnerships: Common patient list, economy, facilities, staff, etc.



Key figures for the GPs in 2016

- ♡ 4,500 GPs in Denmark
- ♡ 3,421 self employed
- ♡ Approximately 300 employed in general practice
- ♡ 753 employed elsewhere e.g. hospitals and abroad

The Danish GP (2)

- ♥ The GP is obliged to have opening hours from 8 am to 4 pm and at least one hour after 4 pm weekly
- ♥ The GPs run regional “off hours” service country wide (except the capital region since January 2014)
- ♥ The average work week is 46,1 hours (2014) including “off hours” emergency work

The Danish GP (3)

- ♥ Average annual income is 1,1 million DKK / 148,000 Euros before tax (2014)
- ♥ Self employed specialists earns 1.5 million DKK / 201,700 Euros
- ♥ Hospital consultant earns 1,1 million DKK / 148,000 Euros
- ♥ 27 % of the fee is fee for capitation and 73 % is fee for service
- ♥ The contract contributes 90% of the GP's income

The GP as gatekeeper/gateopener (1)

- ♡ The GP is the gateopener and guide on the patient journey to hospitals, other specialists, physiotherapists and psychologists
- ♡ Practice consultants improve the collaboration between hospitals, municipalities and the GPs
 - ♡ Are partly financed by the GPs and the municipalities
- ♡ The GPs have 36.8 million contacts yearly
 - ♡ In average each patient contacts the GP 7 times yearly (50 % - 1-5 times, > 70 years 15 times)

The GP as gatekeeper/gateopener (2)

- ♥ The GP has more than 40 patient contacts daily (in person, by phone or e-mail)
- ♥ The GPs finish 90% of all their contacts on a certain day without referral, but over a longer period 30% of the patients are referred to other specialist, x-rays, training etc.
- ♥ It is not necessary to have a referral to dentists and chiropractors (and otologists and ophthalmologists)

How to become a GP in DK

- ♡ 6 years medical school
- ♡ 1 year internship
- ♡ ½-1 year General practice internship
- ♡ 4½ years GP specialist training

GP – lifelong learning

- ♡ Average 10 days of post specialisation education per year
- ♡ Paid for by GPs themselves (part of the service fee is allocated to Fonden for Almen Praksis and reimbursed to GPs taking part in education/training)
- ♡ Small group based learning is reimbursed
- ♡ 3 days per year is allocated to national defined topics
- ♡ Reimbursed post specialisation education is mainly organised by Danish College of GPs and GP Trade Union and is *sponsor free*

IT in practice (1)

- ♥ All GPs in Denmark use one of app 10 different softwaresystems, all follow MEDCom protocol a common IT communication standard used all over the health care system
- ♥ All GP clinics in Denmark have homepages and e-mail consultation
- ♥ Patient files can be electronically transferred e.g. if the patient change GP clinic

IT in practice (2)

- ♥ Referrals *to* anywhere in the health care system are electronic (hospitals, other medical specialists, psychologists, physiotherapists, chiropractors, podiatrists)
- ♥ Reports *from* anywhere in the health care system are mostly electronic
- ♥ Non-urgent communication with primary care nurses/elderly care is electronic

IT in practice (3)

- ♥ Prescriptions are done electronically (can still be written on a napkin if necessary)
- ♥ All prescriptions are nationally accessible by *all* physicians via Fælles Medicin Kort (FMK)
- ♥ Primary care nurses can access FMK in order to administer medication
- ♥ All administered vaccinations are registered in the National Vaccination Register (DDV)

Quality in practice (1)

- ♥ by law GPs are required to follow National Guidelines as issued by the Danish Health Authority
- ♥ by law GPs are required to follow regional/municipal health related agreements e.g. Programmes for COPD or cancer treatment

Quality in Practice (2)

- ♥ Passing The Danish Quality of Care standard (DDKM) is part of the GPs' service agreement with the public health care
- ♥ All GP clinics must complete certification (akkreditering) before 2019

Big Data in Practice (1)

- ♥ by law GPs are required to ICPC code contacts from Health Care Group 1 patients regarding asthma, cancer, COPD, cardiovascular disease, chronic musculoskeletal diseases, diabetes, non-psychotic psychiatric disease and osteoporosis
- ♥ GPs are required to use these data as part of improving patient care in their own clinics
- ♥ GPs are punishable by fine if they do not share these data in anonymised form with the regional councils and central health care authorities

Big Data in Practice (2)

- ♡ At the moment the registration of the required data are at a standstill due to legal and IT related issues
- ♡ Recognizing the importance of clinical data for the quality of care and research the Danish College of General Practitioners (DSAM) and the GP Trade Union (PLO) are working on a legally and ethically viable solution