



HEILSU- OG INNLENDISMÁLARÁÐIÐ

Development Plan for the Faroese Hospital Service

The Faroe Islands has a good public health service. This health service is for all people in the Faroe Islands no matter where they are from, or what their wealth status is. The Faroe Islands also has many well-educated and competent health employees, who do their best to secure the Faroese residents the necessary health service. However, the Faroese hospital service has some challenges. Since society changes and technology keeps progressing, there is a need for the Faroese health service to progress and develop. At the same time, patients demand the best treatment and care, and therefore the demands are higher than ever.

The biggest challenge today is the overall need for more specialists. A new statement shows that fifteen specialist job positions are vacant, and this past year four specialists have resigned. This means that many patients in need of specialist care are sent abroad for treatment, which is a necessary solution, but it is not a lasting solution.

The focus in this development plan is to develop the Faroese hospital service, which also means that all treatments and examinations should take place in the Faroe Islands. However, there are some exceptions due to the lack of specialist areas.

Furthermore, it is necessary to make a specific plan to procure more suitable health service employees on all levels and cross specialty fields while at the same time developing the current employees' skills. Research shows that the best way to keep and procure health service employees in the Faroe Islands is to focus on the people raised in the country. It is important to give them the opportunity to educate and specialize themselves in the health field here in the Faroe Islands.

In addition to this, it is necessary to make a change in the structure of the hospital service and a change in management. Therefore, the development plan suggests that a common management is arranged for all the three hospitals, while a clear division of tasks is divided between the hospitals to ensure that all the hospitals have similar important roles in the health service. This ensures quality treatments. An example on the division of tasks amongst the three hospitals is that the National Hospital in the Faroe Islands handles all acute treatments, while finishing treatments are pursued in the smaller hospitals. In addition to this, the hospital in Suðuroy and the hospital in Klaksvík will have more daily surgeries planned.

Lastly, the development plan states that the Faroese health service does not have the financial resources as other Northern countries do, but on the other hand, the Faroe Islands is on the same level as these countries when it comes to expenses. This shows the role of the Faroese health service compared to the health of the Faroese patient.