



General information about the Finnish health care

Provision of health care services

- The local authorities are in charge of organising health care services. They can produce services either themselves or purchase them from private service providers.
- Primary health care is mainly provided in municipal health centres.
- Specialised medical care is provided in the hospital district whose member the municipality is. There are 21 hospital districts in Finland. Each of them has a central hospital and a number of regional hospitals. The population base of the districts varies considerably (60–1460 thousand).
- 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.

Guaranteed access to care

- Patients in need of urgent care are treated immediately.
- A patient's need for care or treatment must be assessed by the health centre within three days from the day when the patient contacted the health centre. The assessment can be made over telephone and it can be made, besides by a doctor, by some other health care professional.
- In the hospital a doctor must assess the patient's need for treatment within three weeks. If the doctor considers that the patient needs hospital treatment it must be started within six months.