ORGANIZATION OF NORVEGIEN HEALTH SERVISE

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Introduction to the Norwegian health service

The organization of the Norwegian health care system is built around the principle where everyone will have the same access to health services regardless of their socioeconomic position and geographical location. It is a stated health policy goal that health and care services should be equivalent in terms of availability, use and results. The health service in Norway is structured on three levels;

- a national / state level
- the four regional health authorities ¨
- municipal level

The state's role is to establish national health policy, design and manage health legislation and manage funding. The four regional health authorities (RHF) and the municipalities are responsible for the service itself; health companies for specialist health services and municipalities for primary health services. At the national level, the Norwegian Parliament is the political decision-making body and the overall responsibility for the health sector lies with the Ministry of Health and Care.

The Ministry of Health and Career designs the national health policy, prepares major reforms and new legislative proposals and monitors implementation. The ministry also assists the Government in decision making. The government determines the general national health priorities and presents new legislative proposals for the Norwegian Parliament. The Ministry of Health and Care Services is responsible for the following main areas:

Public health
Primary health service
Specialist health service
Nursing and care services
Mental Health
Alcohol and drugs - substance abuse
Habilitation and rehabilitation
Dental health
Patient Rights
Alternative treatment
Drugs
Health preparedness
Food safety

Biotechnology

The Ministry of Health and Care Services is responsible for the four regional health authorities; Health South East, Health Vest, Health Center Norway and Health Nord, as well as several underlying agencies such as the Norwegian Directorate of Health, the Norwegian State Board of Health and the National Institute of Public Health.

The Directorate of Health is a professional administrative body in the social and health field, and has delegated authority in some areas of social and health legislation. The Norwegian Directorate of Health will contribute to the implementation of national health and social policy and provide advice to central authorities, municipalities, health authorities and voluntary organizations. An important task for the Directorate is to develop and streamline health promotion and preventive work and services in the health and social field. The Directorate of Health is also responsible for:

- National Knowledge Center for Health Services
- State Authorization Office for Health Professionals
- Patient Ombudsmen
- Professional responsibility for health and social services at county councils

The Norwegian Public Health Authority is the supreme supervisory authority and has the overall professional supervision of all health and social services in the country. The Norwegian State Board of Health shall supervise the needs of the population for health and social services and ensure that the services are operated in a professionally manner. The Norwegian Public Health Authority will also contribute to preventing a failure in the health service. The Norwegian Health Inspectorate in the counties is the state's regional supervisory authority in each county. The health authorities in the counties supervise the health and social services and all health and social personnel in their county, and are administratively part of the county governor's office, but reports to the Norwegian National Board of Health.

The National Institute of Public Health shall provide an overview of the state of health in the population, and work to improve the health of the population by strengthening the health promotion and preventive work. The Institute charts how public health develops and what somatic, mental and social conditions affect health. The institute will disseminate knowledge, advise on how to promote health, prevent

disease and health damage. The institute works with infection protection, environmental medicine and epidemiology.

Other underlying agencies:

Underlying agencies
Directorate of health
The Directorate of Health is a subject and authority body subject to the Ministry of Health and Care.

Norwegian Health Authority
The Norwegian Public Health Authority is the supreme supervisory authority and has the overall professional supervision of the health and social services.

Public Health Department
The Norwegian Institute of Public Health is a government agency under the Ministry of Health and Care.

E-Health Directorate
The e-Health Directorate is a specialist directorate for e-Health in the health and care sector. The Directorate has a national authority and pioneer role in eHealth and will be a driving force in the development of digital services in the health and care sector.

National Appeals Agency for Health Services
National Health Service Appeals Agency (Helseklage) is a government agency that deals with complaints from the health and care sector.

Norwegian patient injury compensation
Norwegian Patient Injury Compensation (NPE) is a state agency that addresses claims for compensation from patients who have been injured after treatment failure in the public or private health services.

Biotechnology Council

The Biotechnology Council is a consultation body for Norwegian authorities in connection with matters relating to modern biotechnology.

Norwegian Medicines Agency
The Norwegian Medicines Agency supervises the production, testing and marketing of pharmaceuticals.

State Radiation Protection
The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority is the country's professional authority on radiation and nuclear safety.

FSA
The Norwegian Food Safety Authority is the government's supervision of plants, animals and food.

The four regional health authorities (RHF) are owned by the state at the Ministry of Health and Care Services, and are in charge of the specialist health service. Specialist health services include hospitals, outpatient clinics, medical specialists, medical emergency services and ambulance services, laboratory and radiology services and specialized drug treatment. Specialist health services are provided in hospitals and from private practitioners and clinics. Regional health authorities (RHFs) will provide specialist health services to the population, either through hospitals owned by the RHF, organized as a healthcare company or by agreement with private service providers.

Health and care services in the municipalities. Norway's 430 municipalities are responsible for providing and financing primary health and social services to all those who need it. The state is responsible for ensuring equal framework conditions through regulatory and financial frameworks. The state is also responsible for supervising and controlling. The health and care services in the municipalities include the GP, care services, health care and school health services, drug care and mental health services, social services, dental services, physiotherapy facilities, habilitation and rehabilitation, allocation of municipal services and appeal.

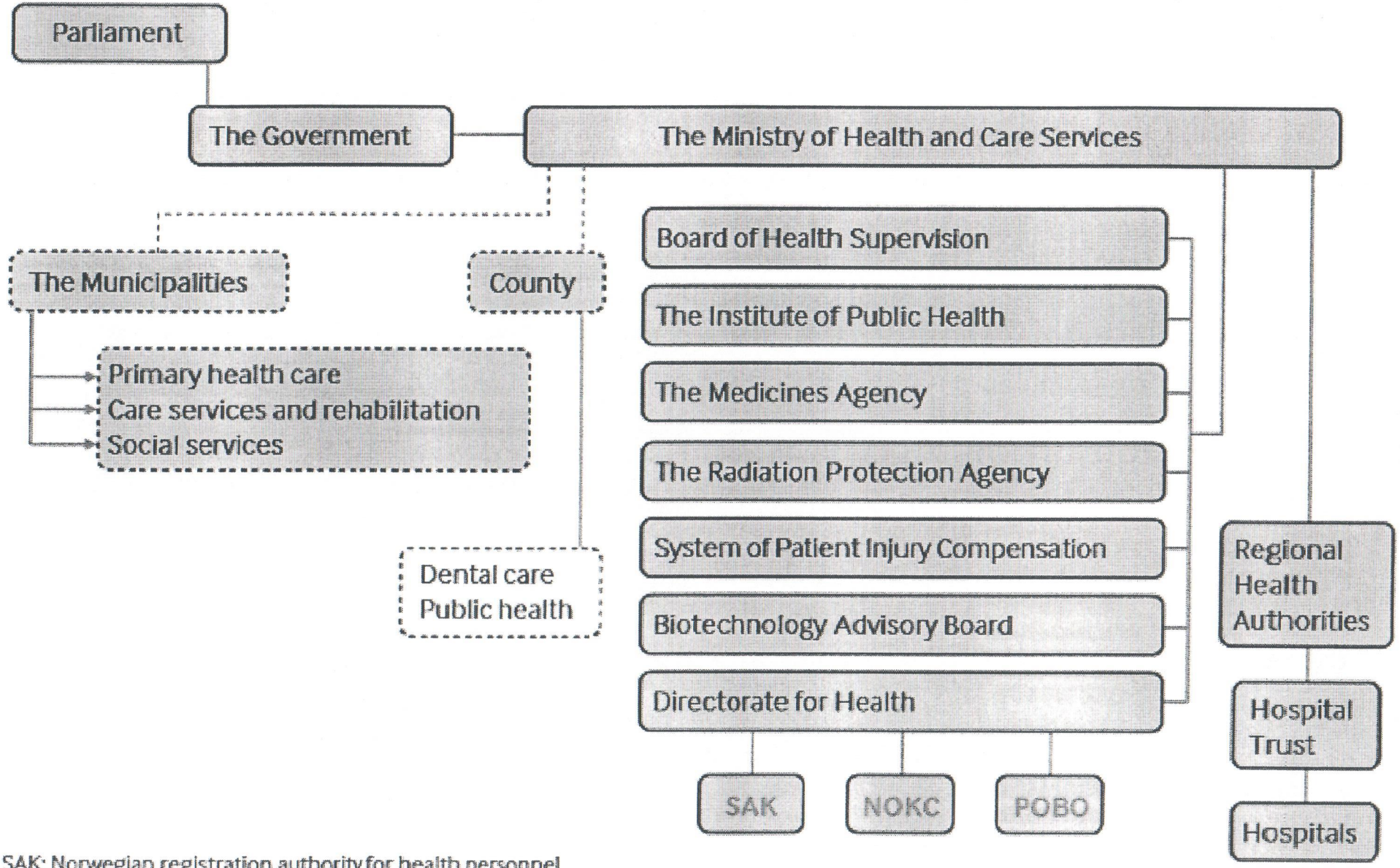
Legislation. Norway has comprehensive legislation regulating health services. The use of laws as tools for controlling and providing healthcare has been increasing.
The law not only defines who is responsible for what, but also largely instructs those responsible in how to perform their duties. The most central laws are:

- Patients' Rights Act
- Mental Health Protection Act
- Patient Act
- The Social Services Act
- Infection Control Act
- Health Personnel
- Municipal Health Services Act
- Specialist Health Ser Stel Oven
- Health Trust Act
- Act on State Supervision of Health Services

See map of organizational structure.

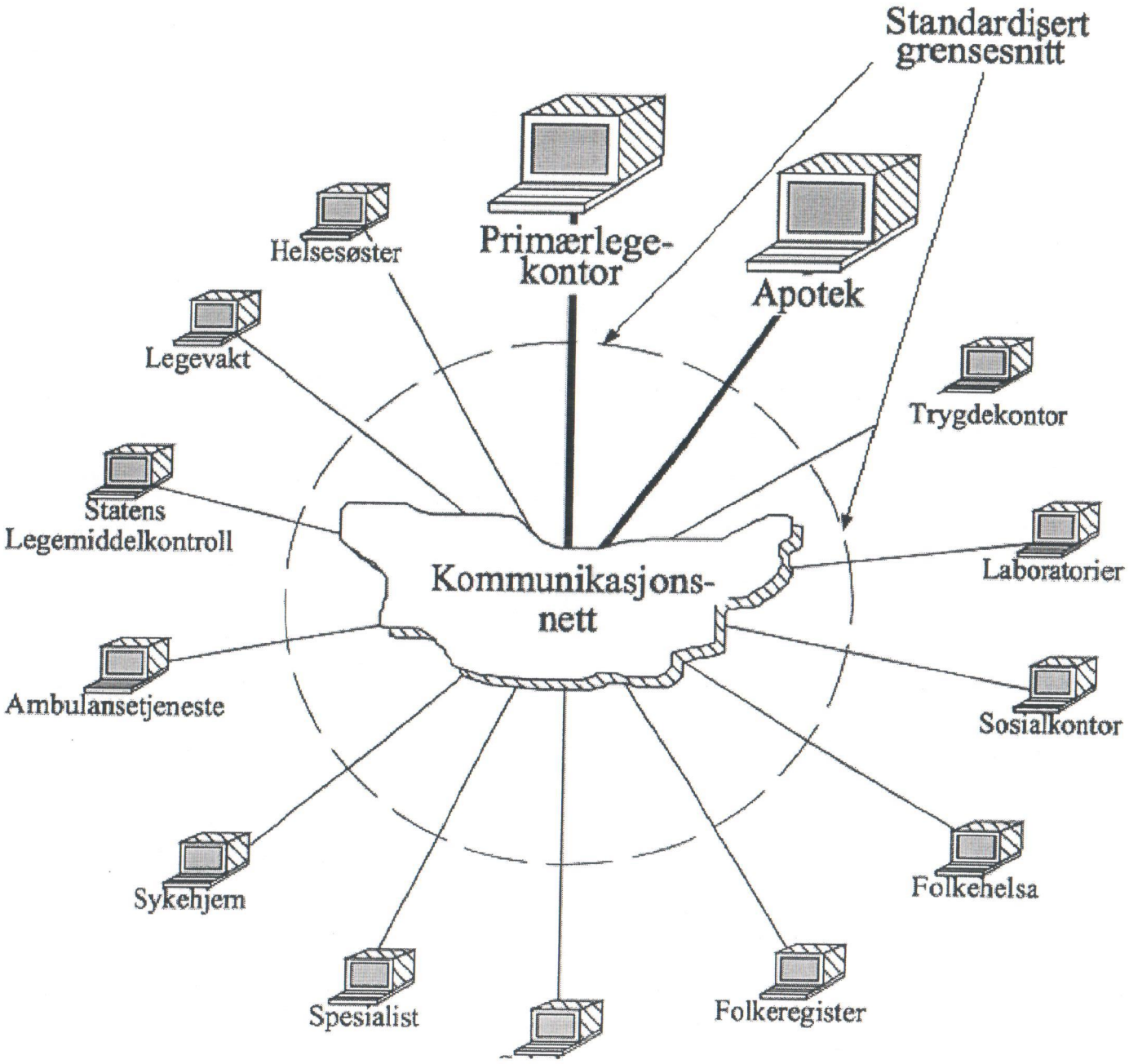
Frode Barth

Organization of the Health System in Norway



SAK: Norwegian registration authority for health personnel
NOKC: Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
POBO: Health and care services ombudsmen

Source: A. K. Lindahl, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services, 2015.


Standardisert grensesnitt
Primærlege-kontor
Helsesøster
Apotek
Legevakt
Trygdekontor
Statens Legemiddelkontroll
Kommunikasjons-nett
Laboratorier
Ambulansetjeneste
Sosialkontor
Sykehjem
Folkehelsa
Spesialist
Folkeregister