

Foreword

This report is the third of a new series of publications reviewing the quality of health care across selected OECD countries. As health costs continue to climb, policy makers increasingly face the challenge of ensuring that substantial spending on health is delivering value for money. At the same time, concerns about patients occasionally receiving poor quality health care led to demands for greater transparency and accountability. Despite this, there is still considerable uncertainty over which policies work best in delivering health care that is safe, effective and provides a good patient experience, and which quality-improvement strategies can help deliver the best care at the least cost. *OECD Reviews of Health Care Quality* seek to highlight and support the development of better policies to improve quality in health care, to help ensure that the substantial resources devoted to health are being used effectively in supporting people to live healthier lives.

This report seeks to provide constructive advice to further the efforts of Danish authorities, informed by the experience of OECD countries at large. Among OECD countries, Denmark has led the way in monitoring and policy development for quality of care. As several sophisticated quality assurance mechanisms have been implemented over several decades, particularly in the secondary care sector, the next priority for Denmark is to ensure overarching linkages across institutions. Efforts ought especially to focus on creating a unified vision, and extending quality monitoring and improvement initiatives to primary care, particularly in light of the increasing number of people living with multiple chronic conditions and needing good continuity of care in the community sector. Another important area will be to support the hospital specialisation reform by encouraging inter-hospital comparisons based on quality. Last, Denmark's commitment to addressing inequalities in access to health care and utilisation is commendable; with an excellent data infrastructure, there is a potential for better monitoring inequalities in health and health care and acting to address them.

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