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Finnish Response to the Questionnaire from the UEMO Quality Assurance Working Group (2003/084)

Questionnaire on the needs and barriers in quality assurance

1. Does regulation in your country help or hinder professional aspirations in quality assurance?

There is a recommendation from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to take into use methods of quality assurance in health. There is no legal requirement for this, however.

2. Disease management programs started in some countries.

- Are there any programs in your country?
Yes.
- Who establishes them?
Earlier government agencies, nowadays medical profession.
- Are doctors or NMO involved in the formulation of these programs?
Yes.
- Are GPs or specialists involved in the formulation of these programs?
Yes, usually together.
- Are they practical?
Yes.
- Are they evidence based?
Yes.
- Are they cost effective?
Costs are taken into consideration when formulating these recommendations.

3. How does funding of your practice affect your provision of quality?

Primary health care is mainly funded by local municipalities. If the funding is insufficient, this makes it more difficult to provide quality services .

4. Does funding of the health regulators affect your provision of quality?

See answer to question 3.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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5. Does access to education affect your provision of quality?
In the public health care there is a problem of insufficient funding for CME/CPD and possibilities to participate in it. In the long run, if doctors are not able to keep up with the development of medicine, this will lead to difficulties in providing quality services.
6. What can UEMO do to help you in this regard?
UEMO can put quality assurance high on its agenda at European level.
UEMO can also help it by distributing examples of quality assurance programmes (such as disease management guidelines).

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