

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

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Please, draw me an efficient Health system

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1. What would be the ideal health system?

Medical efficiency constitutes the most important factor in terms of efficiency in a system that relies first and foremost on the quality of those involved. However, in France, the notion of efficiency is often viewed with suspicion.

2. Increased autonomy

The hospital system must be improved. France is among the countries where the private sector is most important. The private and the public must gain autonomy. In the public sector, the regional organisation must be independent of the central level and of the political power. Draft legislation on health is unfortunately moving towards recentralisation.

Within the health network, function must take precedence over the status, to enable the development of partnerships. However, today, status takes precedence over the mission, because partnerships between distant public hospitals are favoured over local public-private partnerships.

3. Freedom of choice and streamlining

France is the only country offering freedom of choice with no economic impact on the patient. This fundamental pillar must be maintained, even if it causes some inflation. It states that care is operating at a surplus in certain areas and must be streamlined, in particular through a certain number of closures. This may mean job losses at first, but will subsequently enable job creation.

4. Are public hospitals designed to be efficient?

Competition between operators constitutes another major virtue of the French health system, where public hospitals play a full role. By nature, public hospitals must be efficient. On this subject, it is necessary to highlight that hospital directors are not necessarily encouraged to reorganise their structures, as deficits are made good at the end of the year.

5. Streamlining of decision-making bodies

Better coordination between national and local decision-making bodies is imperative. Duplication is both costly and ineffective. The organisation currently has a national structure,

local structures, care teams and patients, as care teams only have limited confidence in the State.

6. Controlled freedom

Freedom may be a necessity, but it cannot be unrestrained. Controls must guarantee the principle of equal access to care, while health cover guarantees the solvency of clientele for medical professionals in private practice.

7. Scope of the reforms

France must face reforms, not avoid them. But with the “ONDAM” (National Objective for Health Insurance Spending) at 2.3% and growth at 0.4%, the country is sinking into deficit and losing competitiveness.