

# Denmark: An NHS perspective

Ministry of Health

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# Agenda

1. Main features of health care in Denmark
2. Controlling health care costs
3. Market mechanisms vs. policy objectives
4. Work in progress



# 1. Main features of health care in Denmark



- A public health care system
- Equal and free access for all citizens
- Mainly financed through general taxes
- Decentralized organization

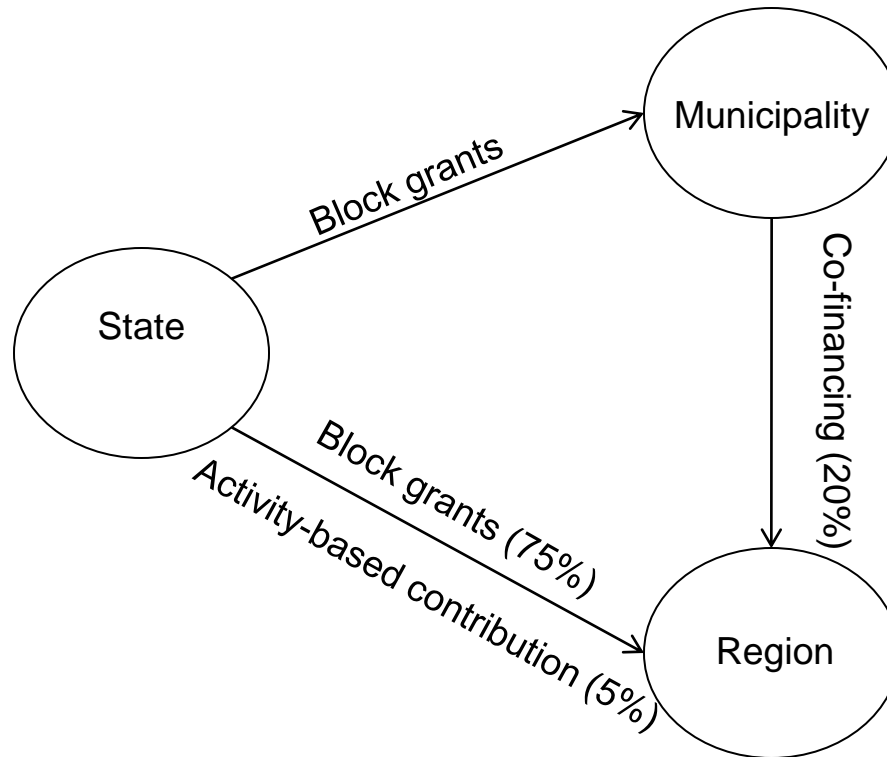


## Political and administrative levels

- National level: One parliament and government
- Regional level: 5 regions
- Local level: 98 municipalities



# Payment flows on health care



## 2. Controlling health care costs



# Strengths

- General practitioners as gate keepers
- Incentives through financing
- Yearly agreement between government and regions
- Visitation guidelines





# Weaknesses

- No out of pocket payment at general practitioners
- Rewarding quantity, not quality
- Lack of priority
- Lack of exchange of knowledge and best practices between regions



### 3. Market mechanisms vs. policy objectives



## Policy objectives outdo market mechanisms:

- Centralized planning of medical speciality → no competition between hospitals in each region
- Regions as self-sufficient units → no competition between regions
- Centralized restrictions on general practitioners



## 4. Work in progress



- Development of quality indicators – better care, better value
- Development of additionally clinical guidelines
- Significant investments in hospitals
- Innovation and technology
- Reorganizing the financing of general practitioners
- Fee for absence from treatment
- Expenditure ceiling for the public sector
- Development of a patient related cost database



Thank you for your attention!

