

# Realising and Implementing Good and Cohesive Patient Pathways

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**Abstract.** The need for integration of health care services and collaboration across boundaries is highlighted as a major challenge within health care in many countries. Hospitals and municipal health care, as well as other health care service providers, need to collaborate across organisational and disciplinary boundaries. In Norway, the introduction of The Coordination Reform in 2012 is addressing this issue. It is argued that patients' needs for coordinated services are not being sufficiently met and that there should be more cooperation and better, more efficient coordination between health care services. The introduction and use of different forms of ICT is seen as an important factor for realising these goals. It is stated that electronic communication should be the "normal" way of communicating within health care. In a research project funded by The Norwegian Research Council, we evaluate the reform, focusing on coordination and patient pathways. In our work package within this project, the aim is to study coordination efforts/initiatives (four cases) between municipal health care and specialist health care, focusing on possible changes the reform implies for organisation, management, distribution of tasks and competence.

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