

Vakre smil A.S



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Dear Bent,

As promised a Powerpoint Presentation with commentary, detailing why children need early referrals.

Please don't implement this removal of Band C patients. It is a mistake and has failed in other countries already. You will create a two tier system which has destroyed the UK Dental services.

This is not cosmetic treatment. Group C have been scientifically proven to be in need of treatment. (IOTN)

I get that you think I am being paid too much for what I do, but that is a different debate. I can see no reason to penalise Norwegian children because you believe I get paid too much. Also ask my patients if they think they get value for money.

I am sure you know that on the same day you decided that Norwegian children, shall be penalized, you were reported in the UK Press to be providing heroine addicts free heroine, also paid for by Norwegian tax payers. Last year I understand Norwegian tax payers paid for 4 million free needles for addicts, and the rest.

Why do you think that heroine addicts deserve State support more than Norwegian children? (Action plan for 2016-20, a budget of EUR 266.7 million (NOK 2.4 billion) Do you really want to be interviewed on NRK with these two policy decisions standing side by side? Personally I would have thought that would be Political suicide.

When the State either abdicates responsibility or decides not to control any aspect of health care the free market takes over. It matters not if it is dental, medical, care for the elderly or heroine addiction. Once the free market takes over the citizen, the state is supposed to protect, is fed to the wolves and always suffers. This can be proven in every country where this happens.

Equally it is a truism that whenever a Politician says they need to increase personal Tax to Pay for Public services they are voted against (even when the same voters claim they desire the Public services)

I presume the reason you are changing policy towards heroine addicts is to try and get back State control of a group currently in the hands of a criminal market. So why abdicate State control and responsibility to Children's dental care and needs on the same day?

So is the real reason you are introducing removal of Band C patients that you think I get paid too much? That maybe true, but don't penalise Norwegian children because you believe that. If the argument is about my salary (please also be aware the turnover of the practice doesn't go into my pocket, new Porsche and Super yacht) I pay my staff, property rental, equipment costs, laboratory

costs, Bank loans, accountancy fees and Tax before I get to pay my domestic bills then, and only then do I get to have a glass of Chablis on a Friday.

Cap my earnings, don't penalise children. The problem with capping earnings, however, and I am sure you know this, is that it tends to generate waiting lists. Which, also leads to a two tier system. Which again disadvantages poorer families, who cannot pay to jump the waiting list.

What if your argument is that Orthodontics for Band C patients is too expensive for the Norwegian state to continue. OK then raise the money to pay for it another way.

My suggestion would be a "Sugar, Acid, Fat, Salt Tax" on products which are not only targeted at our children and young adults but are increasing dental disease, dental erosion, obesity, heart disease and diabetes. These products, and it's not just Diet Coke; Fruit juice, yoghurts, smoothies, sports drinks, health bars, cereals, McDonalds milk shakes. (See attached Powerpoint and additional references) The list is long. I don't know what 2-3 NOK per fizzy drink or smoothie would generate in income for the State but I bet it would pay for more healthcare than just Orthodontics, in a year.

Also all of these products have been purchased with money already Taxed. So the State would simply be giving the citizen a Tax rebate in the form of Healthcare. The companies profiteering from selling these products, that have been proven to be damaging our children's teeth and bodies, are making their profits from citizens money that has already been Taxed. So the public purse is being spared twice and the Nations health benefits overall. I doubt Burger King, McDonalds and Coca Cola would all leave Norway and the Nations health and healthcare system would benefit. I think that's called a win win situation, maybe even a win, win win situation. It also maintains State control of healthcare and protects the citizen, without increasing costs.

The cheapest and quickest way for me to make money is this. Take four teeth out, use the cheapest fixed appliances I can get, put elastics bands on, and finish the case in 9-12 months. That is not what I do because 10-20 years later many of those patients will require retreatment with fixed appliances and Orthognathic surgery. As you know 69.56% of the surgical cases I treat have had premolar teeth out and at least one course of Orthodontics before. I have patients under my care some for ten to fourteen years depending on growth for a fixed fee, independent of the duration of the treatment. I have attached one case for you to see and an e mail he sent to me last week. The same fee no matter how long it takes. Should I change my approach to treat as many people as I can, as quickly and cheaply as I can? Bent this policy change is encouraging me to do so.

Do you really want me to produce a lower quality result, quicker and cheaper with extractions; Or a longer, considered treatment route, with a fixed price, regardless of duration, that tries not to take out teeth, and reduces their risk of Orthodontics later in life, and jaw surgery. I can do both.

So please stop telling people this is cosmetic. It is not, you are rejecting the scientific evidence. If you carry on saying it, you expose yourself to the risk of being accused of essentially lying to the Norwegian people. You cannot claim ignorance. You are a non clinician. You have been provided with the internationally agreed scientific research, behind this rationing system. You are simply choosing to ignore it. It is not a risk I would be willing to take.

If you think Orthodontists are getting paid too much (I wish you had been there during my post graduate studies when the £2,000 annual salary didn't even cover my annual rail ticket, but never the less) let that be the debate - don't penalise Norwegian children to indirectly punish me.

There are better smarter ways of paying for healthcare. Why not try them?
Why do you believe that Taxpayers money should be spent on heroine addicts rather than children?

Get on the right side of the argument. By rejecting this change in Policy, it will appear that you are a reasonable man. You have listened to the evidence and have decided that a better solution is to Tax the

big companies pedaling these dangerous products, because you want to protect not just the excellent Orthodontic services the State currently supports, but help the future health the whole Nation. Isn't that a much better Political stand? Taking the high Moral ground

Extracts from you own speeches:-

“The Nordic Region must continue its focused effort.
We need a clear voice.
We will contribute globally by sharing our best practices.
Coordinated actions plans on a national level are crucial for a successful outcome
Another issue is that this is a global fight – we fight and win together.
Norway has taken a leading role internationally and the world is responding.”

“Empower the individual citizen
Improve the quality of life and quality of care
And strengthen patient safety
Technology is one of our most powerful tools to achieve this – if we use it correctly.
Technology can provide new ways of providing care.
New opportunities to involve patients in the decision making.
The patient should not need to repeat the same information to different health personnel, or do the same tests twice.
Information should follow the patient.
Our vision is "One patient – one record".
This will move us towards a modern health care sector
Some say that we are moving too slowly.
Yes, things takes time.
But I am proud to say that we, also in an international perspective, have come a long way – a very long way.

Digitalization is not only about technology. It is also about change.
A digital health care is increasingly becoming the natural part of cure, care and prevention.”

All of the above has already been implemented, is already working and already applies to the Orthodontic services in Norway. Please don't destroy it.

Also Bent currently you don't have children. I have brought up two children in Norway and two in the U.K. I have worked in both countries healthcare systems. One of my daughters as a human rights lawyer in Shelter for the homeless in the U.K. One is a teacher in a poor area in the U.K. My Step son was educated in Norway. When it came time to educate my youngest daughter and bring her up we had a free choice. My salary was greater in the U.K. My Tax was lower. My daughters had private education and private medical care. We chose to have her educated and to work in Norway because the quality of life and public services especially because of the education services. It was a no brainier. Even though the Tax burden is much greater. Life is more miserable in the UK because the Public services are so much poorer. Don't copy it.

Norway has got it right. The education and healthcare system are state controlled but contributed to by patients. People pay the higher Taxes but the services that are delivered are fantastic. Well done Norway - the envy of Europe. Always in the top 3 countries because the system works. Why screw it up for the future children of Norway because you think I get paid too much?

Yours sincerely

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Attachments:

1. Later referrals (Powerpoint presentation)
2. Acids (Powerpoint presentation)
3. Patient 2423 treatment images which related to e mailed Thank you letter (Powerpoint Presentation)
4. Acids Information (Word)
5. Fizzy drinks information (Word)
6. 6. Copy of Thank you letter Patient 2423