

## **OP24.6**

### **Struggle for control: GPS in Nordic health care systems**

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**Background and Aim:** Health care in the Nordic countries of Sweden, Norway and Denmark has been regarded as an essential part of the Nordic welfare states. Health care systems in these countries have been governed by shared needs and collective responsibilities rather than on the basis of individual concerns. In the past two decades, these countries have initiated policies geared towards providing health care efficiently through the introduction of market-oriented reforms. Relatively few studies have examined the impact of these reforms on GPS.

**Method:** Using both interview and survey instruments, I assessed the impact of these measures on the medical profession in Sweden, Norway and Denmark with a focus on GPS.

**Results:** While the position of GPS have been enhanced by these changes especially in Norway and Denmark, the same cannot be said for Sweden. The structure of health care financing and the increasing role of the welfare states have worked to undermine the autonomy of physicians.

**Conclusion:** The evidence suggests that the loss of professional autonomy is happening faster in some Nordic countries than others with broader implications for doctoring in the Nordic countries.