



Deadline for registration: 1. March

Coming Soon: The new Regular GP Scheme in Norway

This brochure contains the most frequently asked questions and answers regarding the Regular GP Scheme. If you want more information, look up **www.fastlegeordningen.dep.no** on the Internet.

You may also contact your local authority (you will find the phone number on the enclosed list of GPs).

"I want a Regular GP. What should I do?"

There are four different ways in which you can choose a Regular GP.

- 1. You can fill in the registration form and return it.*
- 2. You can call the registration line at **800 31 111**. Make sure that you have your birth registration number, your PIN-code (the number found on your registration form) and the list of GPs at hand before calling.*
- 3. You can register via the Internet at: **www.fastlegeordningen.dep.no** (Remember to have your birth registration and your PIN-code ready.) The registration line and the web site will also be available in the following languages: Sami/English/Urdu.*
- 4. If you fail to respond, a Regular GP will be provided for you in your local area.*

If you would like to receive this brochure in either Norwegian («bokmål» or «nynorsk»), Urdu or Sami, please call the information line. The phone number can be found under point A on the list of GPs.



"What is the Regular GP Scheme?"

The Regular GP Scheme represents a new and improved way of organising the general practitioners services. It gives you the right to have a general practitioner as your Regular GP. All GPs will be given a list of citizens. The citizens on this list will be given priority when it comes to appointments.



"Why is the Regular GP Scheme introduced?"

The new GP Scheme has three main objectives:

- to provide anyone who so wishes access to a Regular GP*
- to promote security through better access to a general practitioner's services*
- to promote better, more long-term doctor-patient relationships.*



"When will the Regular GP Scheme enter into force?"

The Regular GP Scheme will enter into force on 1. June 2001. If you wish to be assigned to a particular GP, you will have to respond by 1. March.



"What is a Regular GP?"

A Regular GP is a general practitioner who has entered into a contract with your local authority to participate in the Regular GP Scheme.



"Who is the Regular GP Scheme for?"

All registered citizens will be entitled to a Regular GP. All persons born prior to 1. March 1985 will be notified by a personal letter in the mail, and will be entitled to choose their own, Regular GP.



"Will it be more expensive to visit a Regular GP?"

No, the doctor's fee will be the same as before.



"Will this reduce the period of time I will have to wait for doctor's appointments?"

One of the main intentions of the GP Scheme is to make it easier to get a doctor's appointment. One GP or a group of GPs will have a special responsibility towards you. The GP Scheme has been implemented on a trial basis in four municipalities, and here the waiting period has been reduced.



"How do I choose a Regular GP?"

Together with this brochure, you will find a registration form and a list of GPs in your local area, a guide with instructions as to what you should do in order to choose a Regular GP, and a return envelope. You can either use the enclosed form, or you can use the Internet or phone the registration line.



"I already have a Regular GP. What should I do?"

If you have been seeing the same GP for a number of years, and wish to continue to do so, you have to submit the name of your GP, the GP code assigned to your GP (legenummer) and the number of years he has been your GP. If you cannot find your GP on the list of GPs, please call the information line. (You will find the number under point A on the list of GPs. You may also contact your local social security office for information or use the Internet www.fastlegeordningen.dep.no)



"What happens if I don't respond at all?"

A Regular GP will be provided for you in your local area.



"What about my children?"

Children born on 1. March 1985 or later will be registered on their mother's registration form. If the children are registered as residing with their father, they will be included on his form. The children will automatically follow the person on whose form they are registered. If you have other wishes regarding your children, please inform us in your response. You may also choose not to let your children join the Regular GP Scheme.



"What is a joint list?"

GPs participating in the Regular GP Scheme may either work alone or at a medical centre as one of several GPs. Some medical centres have decided to establish a joint list for their Regular GPs. The GPs on the joint list have a joint responsibility for providing the citizens on their list with general practitioners services.

If you submit the GP code (legenummer) assigned to a joint list, one of the GPs on this list will be assigned to you as your GP.



"Can I choose one particular GP on a joint list as my Regular GP?"

Yes, there will always be one GP at medical centres with joint lists who will be responsible for providing you with general practitioners services. This GP will be known as your "responsible GP". You can choose a responsible GP by writing down his name and GP code (legenummer).



"Do I have to join the Regular GP Scheme?"

No, the Regular GP Scheme is voluntary. But if you choose not to join, it will be your responsibility to find a GP who can give you an appointment, and you will have to pay a higher fee.



"If I choose not to join the Regular GP Scheme now, can I join later?"

Yes. Anyone has a right to be assigned to the list of a Regular GP. Should you choose not to join the GP Scheme for a period of time, this right will not be lost to you.



"Will I get the Regular GP that I want?"

Your request will be granted provided the Regular GP in question has room for you on his list. But we cannot guarantee that you will get the GP you want. The number of citizens that a Regular GP is permitted to have on his list, is determined in advance. If too many people want the same GP as their Regular GP, long-time patients will be given priority over those who have only made use of his services for a shorter period of time.



"Will I get assigned to a regular GP within my municipality or district?"

You will be assigned to a GP close to where you live, provided, you have not chosen a Regular GP elsewhere. If your municipality has chosen to collaborate with other municipalities on the Regular GP Scheme, you may be assigned to a Regular GP in a neighbouring municipality.



"Can I choose a Regular GP in a municipality other than my own?"

Yes, you are free to choose any GP participating in the Regular GP Scheme. If you want a Regular GP whose name is not on the list of GPs, you will be able to find his GP code (legenummer) by contacting your local security office, or via the Internet.



"What happens if I don't respond by 1. March?"

If you don't respond by 1. March, you will be assigned to a Regular GP close to where you live.



"When will I know who is going to be my Regular GP?"

During the course of May 2001, you will receive a letter from the National Insurance Administration informing you of who will be your Regular GP. The Regular GP Scheme will enter into force on 1. June 2001. Make sure that you keep this letter in a safe place. In it, you will also find the address and phone number of your Regular GP.



"Can I change my Regular GP?"

Following 1. June 2001, you are entitled to change your Regular GP up to twice a year, provided the new Regular GP that you want, can find a space for you on his list. Please contact your social security office if you wish to change GPs.



"Can I make an appointment with a GP other than my Regular GP?"

Yes, but the GP will give priority to the citizens on his list. You will not have to pay a higher fee to see another GP.



"What is a "re- evaluation"?"

If you have a medical problem, and you are dissatisfied with the evaluation you have received from your GP, you are entitled to contact another GP and ask for a "re- evaluation" of your problem. When the other GP has made his evaluation, he shall send a copy of his notes to your Regular GP. For a "re- evaluation", you will only have to pay the regular fee.



"What if my Regular GP is ill or on holiday?"

If your Regular GP is absent for a longer period of time, you will be assigned to the GP who has been assigned to take over his duties. If your GP works at a medical centre together with other GPs, one of them will help you. Even if your Regular GP is away, your municipality is required to provide emergency services for its citizens.

