

Information on highly specialised providers, centres of expertise (reference), National networks and European Reference Networks:

Name of the Country	Norway
Free text (voluntary)	<p>Healthcare providers are organized under four Regional Health Authorities in Norway. The Regional Health Authorities apply to the Ministry of Health and Care Services for approval of new national services. The Directorate of Health assesses new applications and existing national services on behalf of the Ministry. The governance of national unit is regulated by national law.</p> <p>There are two types of national units in the specialist health care services in Norway: a) national / bi-regional treatment units and b) national advisory units. Treatment units centralized highly specialized treatment to one or two geographical locations in the country. Advisory units are responsible to gather and build up competence within areas with a lack of knowledge in order to disseminate this knowledge subsequently to the entire country. Advisory units are therefore meant to be temporary establishments, which will be discontinued after they have reached their mission.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Care Services has approved 96 national units as of January 2015. These are divided into 46 national treatment units and 50 national advisory units. National units are only approved in areas of rare and/or complex diseases.</p> <p>Approved national services in specific specialised activities are assessed by the Directorate of Health based on criteria's like professional competence, necessary infrastructure, participation in research and the establishment of research Networks.</p> <p>National units cover a variety of areas of excellence, and can be approved in different areas in the continuum of care as long as the criteria's in the assessment program are fulfilled. Professional reference groups shall ensure more equal access to national units in order to contribute to ensuring national competence dissemination. The Directorate of Health checks if national units participate in the structured activities demanded by national regulations.</p>

	<p>The national health authorities has developed a guideline for applicants and existing national services (in Norwegian). These guidelines were updated April 22nd with new information about ERN and the application process regarding ERN. The health Directorate invites all national services to a yearly national conference. Information about ERN has been provided in several of these conferences.</p> <p>In addition, a letter with information about the ERN and the 2nd ERN conference in Lisbon has been sent to all national services. This letter encourage the national services to apply for ERN membership.</p> <p>The criteria for approval are provided in the guideline.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Call for ERN was made known to all the Regional Health Authorities in Norway by e-News from the European Commission and a separate letter from the Directorate of Health on March 16, 2016. The letter informed about requirements for applicants, the organization of the application process, procedures and deadlines to get endorsement from the Norwegian health authorities.</p> <p>For more information; please contact the Norwegian Directorate of Health.</p>
<p>Title / content of the information provided in the link (1)</p>	<p>Government information regarding National services (in Norwegian)</p> <p>Guidelines for national services of highly specialised providers (in Norwegian)</p> <p>Government regarding National services in the specialist health care services (in English)</p> <p>Regulation for approval of hospitals, use of the term university hospital, and national services within the specialist health service (in English, §4 about National services, with criteria's for approval and responsibilities.)</p>
<p>Link (s) (1):</p>	<p>https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/helse-og-omsorg/sykehus/nasjonale-tjenester-i-spesialisthelsetje/id614574/</p> <p>https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/3b2da09c60e9471c9975fe566416017d/veileder_nasjonale_tjenester_for_innspill.pdf</p> <p>https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/health-and-care/hospitals/national-services-in-the-specialist-heal/id614574/</p> <p>https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/hod/sha/forskrift-</p>

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