

Sick people must avoid increased waiting times and growing queues

Budget negotiations in Parliament are intensifying. The governing parties and the Progress Party are still negotiating to reach an agreement. One of the points they will hopefully agree on is that the available capacity of the privately run hospitals must be put into use. Volvat is happy to help prevent waiting times and health queues from becoming unmanageable in the wake of the corona pandemic.

Since the corona pandemic hit us in March, public hospitals have been gearing up to handle COVID-19 patients. This has led to "ordinary patients" being deprioritised. Planned examinations, treatments and surgeries have been postponed or cancelled. The consequence is that "ordinary patients" must wait even longer for health care.

- The privately run hospitals are ready to relieve public hospitals. We have the capacity, expertise, and a nationwide offer, says Per Helge Fagermoen, CEO of the Volvat Group. It does not make sense for sick people to wait when there is available capacity at privately run hospitals.

In its proposed national budget for 2021, the Government proposed strengthening hospitals by NOK 6.3 billion to ensure that waiting times and queues do not become stuck at an excessively high level. In its alternative budget proposal, the Progress Party is clear in that it will increase funding for hospitals and earmark part of the allocation for the purchase of services at the privately run hospitals. The governing parties and the Progress Party are now negotiating to agree on next year's budget.

- Around 220 000 patients are now in a health queue. It is therefore positive that extra funds are allocated so that healthcare for "ordinary patients" can be stepped up, says Fagermoen. We hope they reach an agreement so that we can help reduce waiting times and queues. They are about to become unmanageable.

Queuing often means that patients' quality of life is reduced, and they may experience a deterioration in their health situation. All while there is capacity in the privately run hospitals, these are unnecessary costs for both patients and society.

It is especially patients with cancer, eye diseases, ear, nose, throat or musculoskeletal diseases who have been sent back into the queues. This is precisely where Volvat and other privately run hospitals can contribute, according to Fagermoen.

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About Volvat Medical Centre AS

Volvat Medical Centre AS was established in 1985 and is Norway's first privately owned hospital. Today, the Volvat Group is one of the country's leading private health companies for patients across the country.

Volvat has 20 centres located in Oslo, Fredrikstad, Moss, Hamar, Lillehammer, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø. The centres have a wide range of medical services ranging from health-promoting and preventive work to treatment and rehabilitation. Volvat has hospital approval in Oslo, Fredrikstad, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø.

Volvat is owned by Ramsay Health, which also operates large hospitals and medical centres in Sweden, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.

Volvat's quality strategy is based on the group's vision "Always to help", which forms the foundation of the company, rooted in modern medicine and modern management. Volvat is uncompromising when it comes to patient safety, quality of delivery and continuous improvement of all services. Therefore, all clinical departments are ISO-certified according to the quality standard 9001: 2015 and the environmental standard 14001: 2015.

Per Helge Fagermoen is Volvat's Chief Executive Officer.