

NHS

Healthcare system UK

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:



ORGANISATION:

The National Health Service as an umbrella term for the UK's health systems in the four nations: NHS England, NHS Scotland, NHS Wales and Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland. It is organized by the state!

MEDICAL CARE:

Divided into:

Primary Care:

- Provides the services for the first point of contact in the NHS.
- Includes the local general practitioner (GP) who acts as a so-called gatekeeper.
- The GP refers the patient to specialists if needed.
- In addition, primary care also includes preventive and health promotion measures

Secondary care:

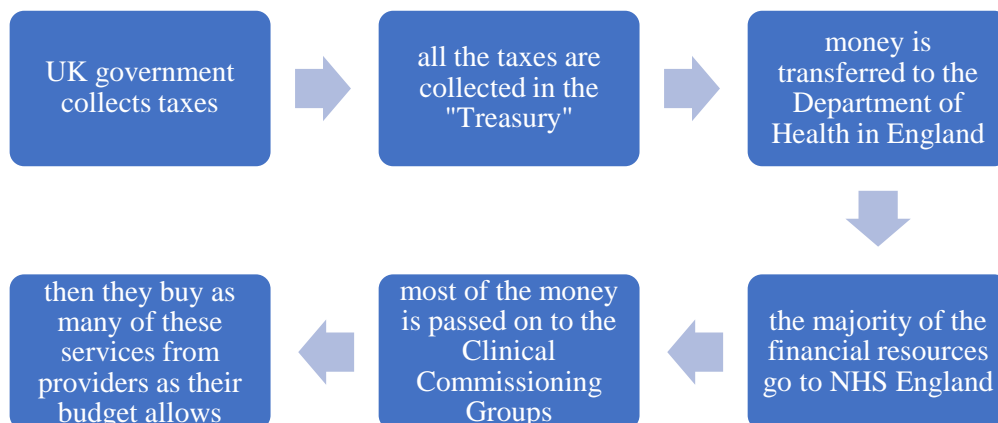
- Provided by specialists in hospitals.
- It requires a referral
- For inpatients and outpatients

Tertiary care:

- Includes highly specialized health services (e.g. organ transplants).
- Requires referral

FUNDING:

The British health system is based on the fundamental idea of the welfare state. This means that everyone has access to medical care and the costs are covered by the state. The NHS is tax-funded and closely linked to the state budget. The funding of the health system (here using NHS England as an example) has the following flow:



CHALLENGES OF THE NHS:

- Low density of doctors
- Low bed capacity
- Increasing cost pressure
- “Chronical underfunding”

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:

general practitioner (GP)	Hausarzt	gross domestic product (GDP)	Bruttoinlandsprodukt
density of doctors	Arztdichte	taxes	Steuern
practice	Praxis	welfare state	Wohlfahrtsstaat
medical care	medizinische Versorgung	chronic underfunding	Chronische Unterfinanzierung
supply bottleneck	Versorgungsengpass	health expenditures	Gesundheitsausgaben
catchment area	Einzugsbereich	cost pressure	Kostendruck
staff	Personal	free of charge	kostenlos
appointment	Termin	entitled	anspruchsberechtigt
fee	Honorar	umbrella term	Überbegriff
supplementary insurance	Zusatzversicherung	government body	Staatliche Einrichtung
comprehensive insurance	Vollversicherung	heyday	Blütezeit
funding	Finanzierung	decline	Rückgang
financial flows	Finanzströme	to increase	ansteigen
demand	Nachfrage	devolved	dezentralisiert
economic power	Wirtschaftskraft	respective	jeweilig, entsprechend

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Have you heard anything about the NHS, for example through the media?
- What do you think about the principle of the welfare state?
- What do you think of the gatekeeper system?
- Do you have any ideas on how to counter the cost pressures in the UK health system?