

Call for papers – special issue on **Health Care in the North**

Special Editor: Professor Juha Kinnunen, Finland

The objective of the special issue is to describe, analyse and compare the special features and challenges of health care in the circumpolar North. Different systems of care have evolved in remote northern areas resulting in substantial variation in how health care is organized, financed, and delivered. Much can be learned from how different circumpolar countries and regions plan and implement solutions to their unique health care challenges

Comprehensive health care includes services related to prevention, cure and rehabilitation. Of particular significance in the North is communication and transportation infrastructure to link regional hubs with both peripheral facilities and central or national referral centers. The major constraints have been the allocation of financial and human resources. Health system improvements in remote areas are an important component of strategies to improve health status, address health disparities, and contribute to community sustainability.

We invite authors to submit evidence-based, well-thought-out original research papers that present new scientific information and solid data relevant to enhancing understanding of the organization, financing and delivery of health care in the northern regions of circumpolar countries. We welcome manuscripts that propose rational technological solutions, regional models for service delivery, health human resources, access to care, as well as studies that provide analyses and perspectives on health care policy and allocation of resources. The submitted papers can either focus on a single northern region or provide a circumpolar cross-national comparative perspective.

Topics to be covered:

- (1) Organization and delivery of health care services – primary health care, specialized care, hospital care, public health and preventive care, emergency services, long-term care etc
- (2) Health care expenditures and financing – involvement of different levels of government, role of private sector; insurance plans and coverage, per capita health care expenditures
- (3) Health human resources and facilities – distribution of physicians, nurses, midwives, dentists; utilization of hospital beds, recruitment and retention of personnel
- (4) Regionalization and decentralization – different models; regional disparities; role of transportation and communication
- (5) Technology in health care – potential solutions for the North? Approaches to technology assessment; technology transfer
- (6) Health care policy and politics – competing priorities and demands, multisectoral coordination, resource allocation

We look forward to receiving manuscripts on the abovementioned topics. Authors are encouraged to consult the Instructions for Authors for guidelines on manuscript preparation and submission (www.ijch.fi). All submitted manuscripts will undergo IJCH's regular editorial processing and review. Manuscripts received by **31.12.2009**, will have the best chance of consideration for inclusion in the special issue of *Int J Circumpolar Health*. The special issue on Health Care in the North will be published in 2010.

Please submit your papers to ijch@oulu.fi