

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

CHAM 2016

Closing

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The healthcare system is a key issue not only for citizens, but also for the country's international image. Healthcare is a major economic sector with a unique way of bringing together the public arena and private players. The healthcare system is highly competitive and composed of high-quality players.

1. Healthcare excellence, but a deficient healthcare system

In the shadow of scientific and academic excellence, the healthcare system is actually quite deficient. France has one of the lowest vaccination rates in Europe and one of the highest rates of psychotropic drug use. There are high numbers of preventable deaths. These phenomena are weak signals that it would be a bad idea to ignore.

The healthcare system is also faced with the persistence of multiple social inequalities. The factors for injustice remain outside the control of the healthcare system, even when it is made accessible to all of the socio-professional categories within a given territory.

2. The solution will not come from a major reform, but from a vision

Faced with these difficulties, France is inclined to expect miraculous solutions from this or that reform, radical changes which give more control to one player, to another's detriment. The solution instead lies in adjusting the framing and restoring trust, which requires the objectives to be clearly defined. The healthcare system cannot be reduced to the quality of care. France must set overall goals with the purpose of reducing inequalities between territories and between socio-professional categories. These goals require flexibility and the promotion of innovation. Healthcare structures must be able to flexibly adapt to specific territorial circumstances. Innovation must be fully integrated into the healthcare system.

3. The tired rivalry between centralization and decentralization

The change that has just been described would not be facilitated by opposition between the State and the regions. Decentralization is not the topic of debate. The healthcare system requires a strong State as well as local knowledge. Decentralization is not an end in itself, as the regions might simply reproduce the State's rigidity on a smaller scale. In order to do away with the current distrust, all players must be empowered and develop a mutual understanding.

4. The necessity of rediscovering the long view

The healthcare system must learn to take the long view. Major transformations cannot be achieved within an annual budgeting scheme. Unfortunately, the industry's players are not

encouraged to think beyond the annual framework. As a result, the system actually *discourages* change.

5. The administrative departmenting of public policy

Finally, healthcare should not be viewed through the prism of a single Ministry. The healthcare system must be managed not only on a multiannual, but also a multiministerial basis. Its management must not focus solely on the number of treatments provided, but on the overarching policy necessary to develop a true preventive approach.