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ABSTRACT

Re-regulating the Swedish pharmacy system – analyzing arguments of key actors

The Swedish government decided on 21 September 2006 to appoint a special investigator with the task to make proposals that will allow involved stakeholders other than Apoteket AB to sell drugs, and secondly, make proposals for the sale of non-prescription drugs outside pharmacies. The aim of the re-regulation (s. avreglering) according to the government is to achieve efficiency gains, better accessibility for consumers, price pressure, and safe and appropriate use of medical products. The inquiry report (s. utredning) “Re-regulation of pharmacy market SOU 2008:4” was sent to 130 actors for comment before finalising proposals for new laws and regulations.

The aim of this study was to examine the main arguments used by actors in relation to the formal inquiry regarding the abolishment of the current Swedish community pharmacy system.

This project is a case study, using documentary analysis with the purpose to examine the background of the development of restructuring of the Swedish pharmacy system. Analysis of the source material was based on the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF). Data sources consisted of selected documents containing formal responses of key actors about the re-regulation of the pharmacy system in Sweden were selected and analyzed.

No main streams of arguments were to be found from opposite sides of the debate on re-regulation. Instead, the main arguments consisted of different comments about the inquiry itself and what was found missing in the inquiry report. Both sides stressed the importance of equal access, safety and quality of medicines and pharmacies in the whole country with no exception for thinly populated areas. Many actors shared the view that the goal of better use of medicines was important and agreed that there is much to gain by using pharmacies in attaining this goal to benefit individuals and society.

ÁGRIP

Endurskoðun regluverks lyfjasmásölu í Svíþjóð – greining á röksemdum hagsmunaaðila.

Sænska ríkisstjórnin ákvað þann 21. september 2006 að setja sérstakan embættismann í að útbúa til tillögur um breytingar á fyrirkomulagi lyfjamála í landinu sem lytu að því að gera öðrum aðilum en Apoteket AB kleift að selja lyf. Auk þess átti embættismaðurinn að leggja fram tillögur um fyrirkomulag sölu lausasölulyfja utan apóteka. Markmið þessarar endurskoðunar á regluverkinu (s. avreglering) var samkvæmt ríkisstjórninni að auka skilvirkni, bæta aðgengi að lyfjum fyrir notendur þeirra, auka verðsamkeppni á lyfjamarkaði, tryggja öryggi og rétta notkun lyfja. Rannsóknarskýrslan (s. utredning) “Re-regulation of the pharmacy SOU 2008:4” var send til 130 hagsmunaaðila til þess að unnt væri að taka tillit til sjónarmiða þeirra í frekari vinnslu laga og reglugerða.

Markmið þessa verkefnis var að rannsaka helstu röksemdir sem hagsmunaaðilar notuðu í tengslum við hina formlegu rannsókn sem framkvæmd var í tengslum við breytingar á fyrirkomulagi lyfsölu á smásölustigi í Svíþjóð.

Þetta verkefni er tilviksrannsókn (e. case study), þar sem textarýni var notuð í þeim tilgangi að rannsaka forsögu þessara breytinga á sænska apótekakerfinu. Greining á frumgögnum var byggð á Advocacy Coalition Framework kenningum (ACF). Frumgögn voru valin skjöl sem innihéldu formleg svör hagsmunaaðila um endurskoðun smásölustigs lyfjasölu í Svíþjóð.

Enginn sameiginlegur þráður fannst í málflutningi hagsmunaaðilanna um kosti og galla þeirra tillagna um breytingar á regluverkinu sem lagðar voru fram í skýrslunni. Þess í stað gerðu þeir mismunandi athugasemdir um rannsóknina sjálfa og það sem þeir töldu vanta í skýrslunni. Aðilar bæði með og á móti breytingum, lögðu áherslu á mikilvægi jafns aðgangs, öryggis, og gæða lyfja og lyfjaverslana í öllu landinu án nokkurra undantekninga í dreifbýlinu. Margir aðilar deildu þeirri skoðun að markmiðið um betri lyfjanotkun væri mikilvægt og voru sammála um hinn mikla ábata af góðri lyfjanotkun fyrir einstaklinga og samfélag.

ABBREVIATIONS

- AIP – Pharmacy purchase price (S Apotekets inköpspris)
- AUP – Pharmacy buy-out price (S Apotekets utköpspris)
- CIP - The Community Pharmacy Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation
- FF – Pharmacy Association (S Farmaciförbundet)
- FGL - The Association for Generic Pharmaceuticals in Sweden
- FIP – International Pharmaceutical Federation
- HSAN – Medical Responsibility Board
- ILCO - Swedish Ostomy Association (S Riksförbundet för stomi och reservoaropererade)
- KD - Kronans droghandel
- LDF – Swedish Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers
(S Läkemedelsdistributörsföreningen)
- LFN - Pharmaceutical Benefits Board (S Läkemedelsförmånsnämnden)
- LIF - The Swedish Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry AB
- OTC- Over-the-counter
- SFAM – Swedish Association of General Practice (S Svensk förening för allmänmedicin)
- SFF – The Swedish Pharmaceutical Association (S Sveriges Farmaceutförbund)
- SFMI – Swedish Federation for medical informatics (S Svensk förening för informatik)
- SFS – Swedish constitutional assembly (S Svensk författningssamling)
- SKL - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- SmåKom - The small municipalities' cooperation
- SOU – State public inquiries (S Statens offentliga utredningar)
- SPF - The Swedish Association of Retired People (S Sveriges Pensionärsförbund)
- TLV – Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Board
(S Tandvårds och läkemedelsförmånsverket)
- UK – United Kingdom
- USA – United States of America
- WHO – World Health Organization

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