

Northern Halland's county medical service expands its IT support with the help of TietoEnator

The county medical service in northern Halland has signed a three-year contract with TietoEnator regarding the upgrading of the medical record administrative software SwedeStar and Optimera as well as the development of a new function for these systems. The contract follows a longer co-operation that has been regulated in annual contracts since 1995. The hospitals in Varberg, Falkenberg and Kungsbacka are affected by the contract.

SwedeStar is a system for, e.g., medical records and Optimera handles the planning of operations.

"By signing a three-year contract, we want to ensure the future development in the long term. More and more projects run for several years and the fact that we sign a three-year contract shows that we have confidence in TietoEnator's ability to cope with a long-term responsibility", says Kristina Wallentin, Director of Varberg's hospital.

The electronic medical record that is still supplemented by certain paper documents where there is no IT support for certain types of documents is in the centre of the development work.

"Through this co-operation we hope to be able to phase out the paper records at a quicker rate", says Kristina Wallentin.

The contract focuses on measures to further strengthen and simplify the exchange of information between the patient's medical record and the surrounding systems. We have already come a long way with regular EDI solutions. X-ray results and various laboratory results are transferred via the EDI function directly to Swedestar's remittance and answer function and update the patient's medical record. In the reverse way, remittances and electronic prescriptions can be sent to external systems.

The contract also includes investments in new applications, for example, image scanning and digital dictation. The new applications will be integrated with the medical record and this means that the user has direct access to the new applications archive from inside the record, irrespective of whether the data is in voice, text or picture form.

"The county medical service has invested considerable amounts in the existing systems and has today an extensive and valuable patient database. The fact that TietoEnator's consultant team has a local presence and high continuity in the co-operation has been important for the long-term development. I believe that the county medical service's choice of continuing to develop, modernize and integrate with the world around is a good way of preserving and obtaining more from the investments they have made", says Leif Bäckman, TietoEnator.

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