

OBJECTIVES FOR THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

Founded in 1947, the Finnish Rheumatism Association is an organisation representing people suffering from rheumatic and other musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) in Finland. Approximately 100,000 Finns are eligible for special refunds for medicines used to treat rheumatic diseases; 1.46 million Finns received reimbursement from National Health Insurance for medication of musculoskeletal diseases.

The Finnish Rheumatism Association proposes the following to be included in the Government Programme for 2015–2019:

1. Remedying the shortage of medical specialists

The shortage of medical specialists affects many specialities. The situation is particularly bad within physical medicine and rheumatology. Half of the rheumatologists will retire by 2025, and the number of new graduates is not sufficient to compensate for the shortage.

For the Government Programme:
National steering of the number of doctors in specialist training will be increased in order to secure the number of medical specialists and ensure patient safety. Sufficient resources will be allocated to the section for national coordination which will steer the numbers of specialist training.

2. The costs for sufferers of long-term illnesses are not to be increased

Being ill is expensive and impoverishing. In addition to their normal expenses, sufferers of long-term illnesses carry various costs due to their illness, for instance, for healthcare and social care, medicines and travel. For many people with limited means, they are too much.

For the Government Programme:
The costs for sufferers of long-term illnesses will not increase. The measures targeted at the medicine reimbursement system, the fees for social services and healthcare and the publicly funded transportation will be used to ensure the availability of medication, services and travel to persons suffering from long-term illnesses and having limited means at their disposal. The caps on all of these fees will be aligned to a level that is lower than today.

3. Clearer rehabilitation system

Rehabilitation employed at the right time helps to maintain work capacity and functional abilities. In Finland, the responsibility for rehabilitation is split between a number of parties with no one in overall charge.

For the Government Programme:
The rehabilitation system and the responsibilities within it will be made clearer. Rehabilitation plays a crucial role when the aim is to help people work longer and enable them to live at home. Rehabilitation will be integrated into the process of care and treatment and maintaining functional abilities.



We are happy to assist you with the joint competence of the Finnish Rheumatism Association and our expert networks.



The Finnish Rheumatism Association