Nordic COPD Index 2010:

Western Sweden has the best COPD treatment in the Nordic countries

COPD: a growing national disease!

Southern and Western Sweden came out joint first when a comparison of COPD in the Nordic countries was carried out for the first time. The various regions of the countries have been compared with each other using 25 indicators divided into structure quality, process quality, results and accessibility. Southern Finland was in third place. The Western and South-eastern regions of Norway scored the lowest points.

The index has been produced by the Swedish analysis and information organisation Health Consumer Powerhouse (HCP).

COPD is a chronic lung disease that almost solely affects smokers. COPD is one of the biggest national diseases, particularly amongst women. The disease is often confused with asthma or bronchitis despite the fact that it is relatively easy to diagnose. Sweden comes out on top when the overall results are compared, followed by Finland, with Denmark in third place and Norway fourth.

"Sweden’s top placing is primarily due to a uniform and high level within the index’s four sub-branches, with the Swedish regions being in first place in both Process quality and Results", says Arne Björnberg, Development Manager at HCP. As usual, Accessibility represents the Achilles heal for Swedish treatment, with the Stockholm region being a fortunate exception in the COPD Index.

COPD Index results (based on a possible 1,000 points)

1 Sweden Southern 792
2 Sweden Western 792
3 Finland Southern 784
4 Sweden Southeastern 772
5 Sweden Stockholm 759
6 Sweden Northern 742
7 Finland Northern 728
8 Sweden Uppsala-Örebro 718
9 Finland Eastern 716
10 Finland Western 707
11 Denmark, South Denmark 675
12 Denmark Capital 667
13 Denmark North Jutland 644
14 Norway, North Norway 643
15 Norway Mid-Norway 642
16 Denmark Mid-Jutland 626
17 Denmark Zealand 608
18 Norway Oslo 584
19 Norway South-east 578
20 Norway West 567
The Nordic COPD Index has measured COPD treatment within four different "sub-branches":

- **Structure quality:** "How COPD treatment is organised"
- **Process quality:** "How COPD patients are dealt with, including taking medication"
- **Treatment results:** "The outcome of the treatment, including preventative initiatives"
- **Accessibility:** "Waiting times for primary and specialist treatment"

The Nordic COPD Index 2010 has been developed with the aid of unconditional development support from the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

Health Consumer Powerhouse is Europe's leading organisation for consumer information concerning medical treatment (www.healthpowerhouse.com). In addition to the COPD Index, other indices produced by HCP in Sweden include the Breast Cancer Index, Diabetes Index, Kidney Disease Index, Vaccination Index and the Health Consumer Index, and at EU level HCP produces the Euro Health Consumer Index, Euro Consumer Heart Index and Euro Diabetes Index.

The Nordic COPD Index 2010 can be downloaded from www.healthpowerhouse.com and may be used freely providing the source is acknowledged.

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