

Organization of the Health Care System in Spain

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Spain: Administrative Organization

1976: Parliamentary monarchy

1978: Spanish Constitution

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION :

50 PROVINCES

17 AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

2 AUTONOMOUS CITIES

PARLAMENTS ELECTED
BY DIRECT VOTE

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS



Background

Spanish Constitution of 1978

Article 41 : Public regime of the Social Security

Article 43 : Right to health protection and
health care

Legal framework

The main principles governing the exercise of this right are regulated by the **General Health Act** 14/1986, as follows:

- Public funding, with universal, free health services at the time of use
- Devolution of health affairs to the Autonomous Communities
- Provision of holistic health care, aiming to achieve high quality, with proper evaluation and control
- Inclusion of the different public health structures and services in a National Health System (NHS)

Spanish National Health System: Coordination

- General Health Act 14/1986 of 25 April:
 - specifies the tools for collaboration
 - creates the National Health System's **Inter-Territorial Board** as the coordinating body.
- Act 16/2003 of 28 May on Cohesion and Quality in the National Health System

Spanish National Health System: Coordination

DECENTRALIZATION - COORDINATION

**State
Administration**



Government

**Autonomous
Communities
Administration**



Government

Inter- Territorial Board

Presided by the **Health Minister**



Commissions, Boards and Working Groups

Spanish National Health System

National Health System (NHS):

- Made up of both the State and Autonomous Community Health Departments
- Covers all the health functions and services for which the public authorities are legally responsible.

Spanish National Health System

- Health care in Spain is a **non-contributory benefit**.
 - paid through taxation
 - included in the general budget for each Autonomous Community
- The services offered include:
 - preventive care,
 - diagnostic and therapeutic techniques,
 - rehabilitation,
 - health promotion and maintenance

Spanish National Health System

- **Pharmaceutical services cover:**
drugs and health products.

Unlike other services,

pharmaceutical,

orthopaedic

prosthetic services



co-financed by users

Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs

Body within the Central Administration

proposes and implements the main government guidelines on:

- health policy,
- health planning,
- health care

State powers

- General organisation and coordination of health matters
- International health, and international health relations and agreements
- Legislation on pharmaceutical products

State powers

- General organisation and coordination of health matters:
 - regulation of conditions and minimum requirements, aiming equal conditions of public health services
 - creation of methods for the sharing of information, technical standardisation in specific areas
 - joint action by State and Autonomous Community authorities
- International health, and international health relations and agreements:
 - surveillance and control of health risks within
 - import, export or traffic of goods
 - international passenger traffic

State powers

- **Legislation on pharmaceutical products:**
 - evaluation, authorisation and registration of drugs and health products for human and veterinarian use
 - authorisation for public financing and pricing of drugs and health products
 - guaranteeing the deposit of narcotics in accordance with international treaties
 - imports of urgent, foreign medication
 - maintenance of a strategic, State-run deposit of drugs and health products for emergencies and catastrophes
 - purchase and distribution of drugs and health products for international cooperation programmes

Spanish National Health System

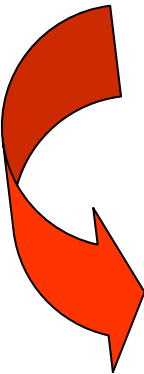
Devolution of Health powers: decentralized management ✓

- Public health: 1979 - 1985
- Health care: 1981 - 2002



Powers of the Autonomous Communities

- Health Planning
- Public Health
- Health care



functions and services, goods, rights and obligations relating to such powers, as well as the staff and budgets assigned to them.

Powers of the Autonomous Communities

Regional Health Service:

administrative and management body responsible for

- centres,
- services,
- facilities

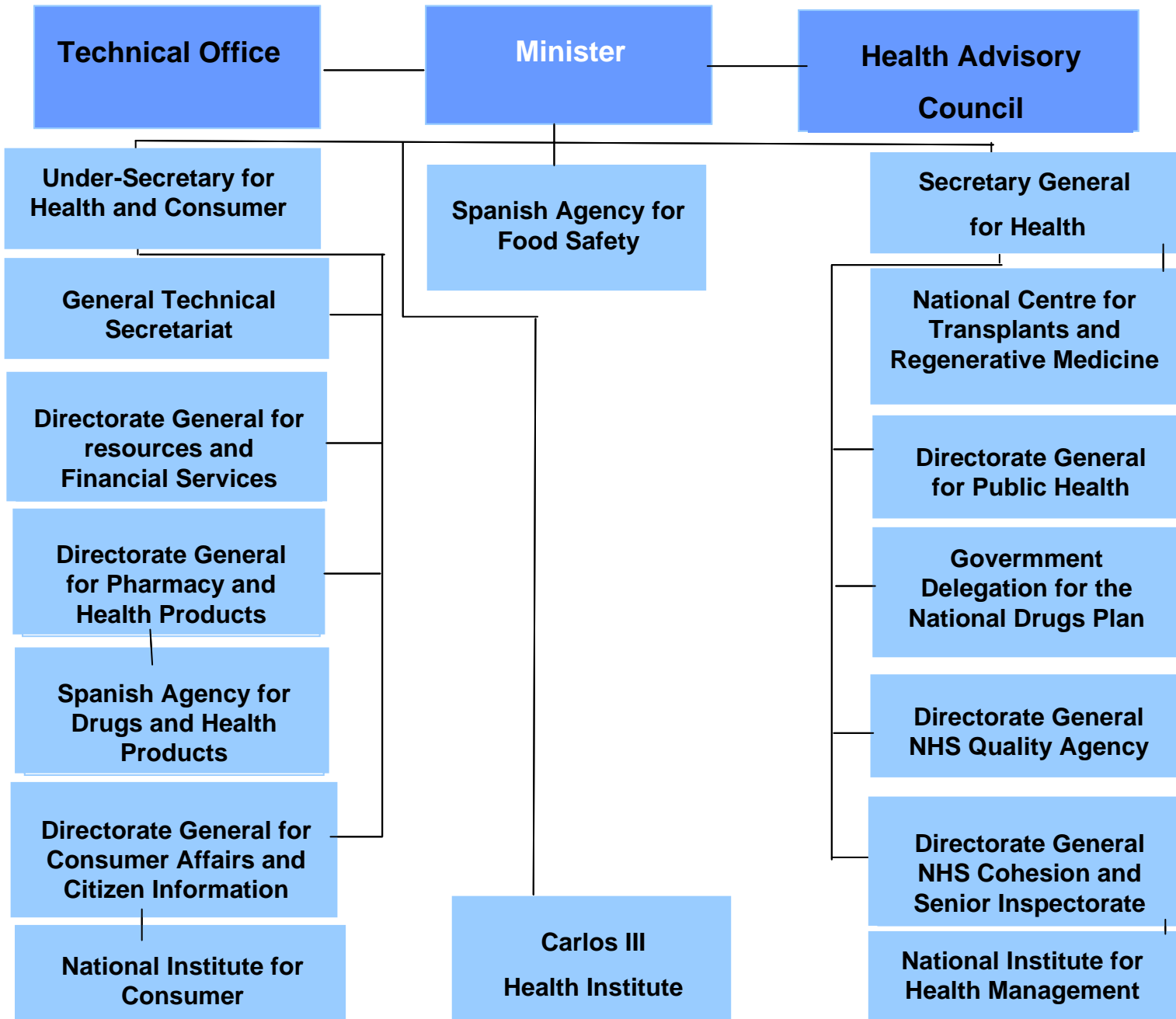
in its own Community



Powers of the Public administrations on Health matters



Sources: Distribution of powers according to the Spanish Constitution, the General Health Act and the Law for cohesion and quality in the National Health System



Spanish NHS: Organization

- **Primary Health Care:**
 - extensive accessibility
 - sufficient technical resources
- **Specialist Care:**
 - complex and costly diagnostic and therapeutic resources
 - access by referral from Primary Health Care

Spanish NHS: Organization

Primary Health Care



15 minutes

Average time from patient's home to Health centre

Primary Care Centre



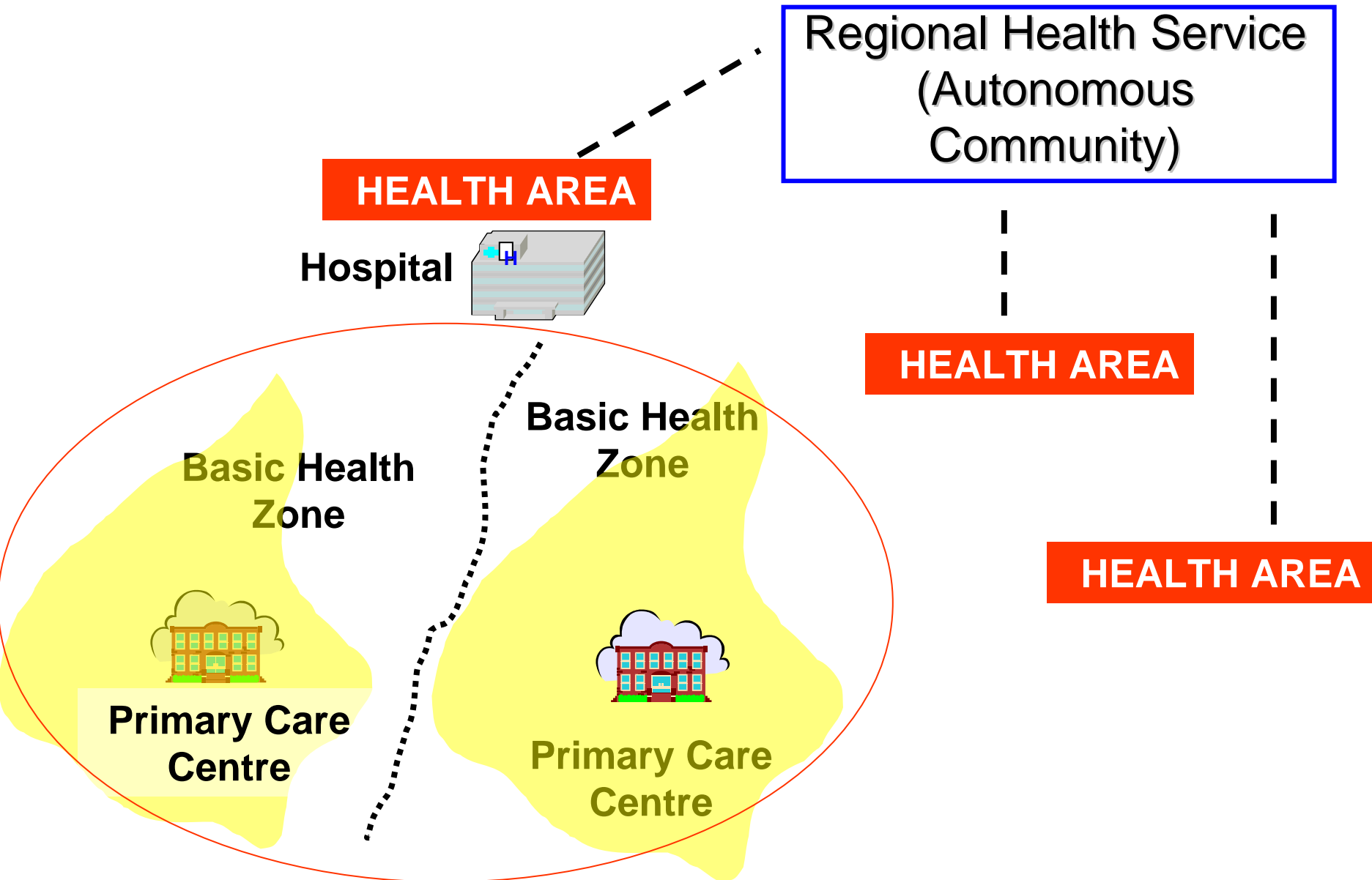
Urban Centres



Rural Centres

Basic Health Zone

Spanish NHS: Organization



Facilities and resources

Health centers, 2005			
	Control	Centers	Beds
Primary Care Centers (1)	Public	2,702	--
Hospitals	Public Civil Hospitals	293	103,592
	Ministry of Defense	8	1,460
	Industrial Accident and Occupational Disease Mutual Funds	24	1,792
	Private, non-for-profit	121	20,007
	Private, profit	333	31,075
	TOTAL	779	157,926

(1) Year 2004

Sources: Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, Regional Departments of Health of the Autonomous Communities and the National Catalogue of hospitals

Human Resources

Registered health professionals, 2004			
	Total	% women	Registered health professionals per 1,000 inhabitants
Physicians	194,668	41.4	47
Dentists	21,055	40.5	0.5
Pharmacists	57,954	68.3	1.4
Veterinarians	25,604	35.1	0.6
Nurses	225,487	81.6	5.5

Source: National Statistics Institute INE

Thank you for your attention