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ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

Info-Document :	AEMH 11-112
Title:	Study on Governance of Public Hospitals in Europe
Author :	European Observatory
Purpose :	Info-documents disseminated by the AEMH European Liaison Office do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the AEMH and its Board. Info-documents are meant to inform, to raise awareness, to alert, to launch a debate, to incite taking action,.....
Distribution :	AEMH Member Delegations
Date :	Sent by e-mail 5 December 2011



Governing public hospitals. Reform strategies and the movement towards institutional autonomy

Governance of public hospitals in Europe is changing. Individual hospitals have been given varying degrees of semi-autonomy within the public sector and empowered to make key strategic, financial, and clinical decisions themselves. This study explores the major developments and their implications for national and European health policy.

The study focuses on hospital-level decision-making and draws together both theoretical and practical evidence. It includes an in-depth assessment of eight different country models of semi-autonomy, in the Czech Republic, England, Estonia, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Spain.

The evidence that emerges throws light on the shifting relationships between public-sector decision-making and hospital-level organizational behaviour and will be of real and practical value to those working with this increasingly important and complex mix of approaches.

Available in: [English](#) (PDF), 1.1 MB

Edited by Richard B. Saltman, Antonio Durán and Hans F.W. Dubois
Observatory Studies Series No. 25
2011, xvi + 260 pages
