Finland

CE and HTA/HTM in Finland by Timo Jämsä, Jari Hyttinen and Jari Viik, Oct. 12, 2019

Clinical Engineering
In Finland, there not really exists CE as an independent profession. However, similar work in hospitals is carried by hospital physicists that is an accredited profession in Finland. There are also engineers working in CE tasks in hospitals, but not as health professionals. They may have degree in BME, or in some other engineering discipline.
There is no CE program in Finland. Instead, there are BME BSc/MSc/PhD programs in five universities, which are also teaching medical/hospital physicists. There is certification program for Medical/Hospital Physicist, which is an accredited health profession (http://www.sairaalafyysikot.fi/english/specialization-in-medical-physics/).
There are several academic or professional societies for related activities.
Finnish Association of Medical Physicists (member of EFOMP, IOMP, IUPESM). http://www.sairaalafyysikot.fi/english/
Finnish Society for Hospital Engineering (member of IFHE). http://ssty.fi/

Health Technology Assessment / Management
HTA/HTM is typically under other professions than CE/BME. Finnish Coordinating Center for Health Technology Assessment (FinCCHTA, http://www.inahta.org/members/fincchta/) was established in 2018 to continue the HTA activities previously carried out by the National Institute for Health and Welfare’s department FinOHTA. FinCCHTA has a national position to coordinate HTA in Finland. FinCCHTA’s office is located within the Oulu University Hospital.
FinCCHTA participates in the international HTA collaboration (The International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment, INAHTA), health services and HTA research. Distribution and organization of the hospital-based HTA work within the national HTA-network (five university hospitals jointly producing the reviews) is FinCCHTA’s responsibility. FinCCHTA collects all jointly produced reviews and gives national recommendations based on this work. FinCCHTA also produces systematic reviews and original research papers.
FinCCHTA is a permanent member (one seat) in the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE), which issues recommendations on services that should be included in the range of public health services in Finland. The Council works in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. COHERE can order HTA reports from FinCCHTA or redirect themes proposed to it to FinCCHTA.

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