



Why are the Clown doctors needed? The daily life of children staying in hospitals can become very boring and even distressed and painful. The Clown doctor help the children to forget their illness for a while. They give the children the authority to be in a good mood, the right to laugh and be funny in the midst of the everyday life of the hospital.

Who gets the benefit? In addition to sick children of all ages, even the life of their sisters and brothers, parents and the hospital personnel.

Who are the people behind the clowns?

Sairaalaklovnit ry / Sjukhusclowner rf trains clown doctors who are originally professional artists with backgrounds in different areas of art and performance. In addition to the basic education as clown doctors, the artists have regular training sessions where they can improve their competence, get new ideas and have the possibility to discuss and be assisted in difficult experiences and situations in their work at the hospitals.

...and where do they work? Two clown doctors do the rounds on wards that have been selected together with the hospital management. The doctors work in pairs and visit the patients in their rooms provided that the child gives them permission to enter the room.

...and on which wards do they work? The clown doctors visit the polyclinics as well as wards in kidney and transplantation, paediatric surgery and urology, Orthopaedic and traumatology, Cancer and haematology, cardiac care, paediatric diseases and infectious diseases.

... and what do they do? The healing methods of the clown doctors are improvisation, general fussing about, singing, music and magical tricks. The basic idea is that there are always two fools (the doctors) and a smart one (the child) in the patient room.

The importance of being organized. In order to secure a continuity of the operations registered association called Sairaalaklovnit ry/ Sjukhusclowner rf, was founded in Finland in 2001. At present, the association employs 23 specially trained artists.

Extending the operations. Officially the activities started in January 2002. The program has been extended to the university hospitals in the major Finnish towns Of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere and Kuopio making a total of six days a week all year round.

Are the hospitals financially involved? Sairaalaklovnit ry / Sjukhusclowner rf arranges for the financing of the operation and thus the service is free of charge for the hospitals. The association agrees upon schedules and other organizational details together with the hospital management on a yearly basis.

Clown doctors -background The first organized Hospital clown operation was founded in New York 1986. Since the beginning the idea has spread into many countries around the world. The Hospital Clowns Association works as an independent group but still in close co-operation with the New York unit.