group's overall wage policy. Praktikertjänst is particular important within dental care because of a reform of dental care since 1999, with 1,400 dentists connected to the group. 70% of the group's overall turnover derives from dental care. However, one third of the total 2,200 practitioners within Praktikertjänst (about 770 people) are physicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychoanalysts/therapists, nurses, midwives, certified social workers, chiropractors and dieticians, who develop and run their own practices throughout the country. Most of the businesses are operated under healthcare agreements with the local/regional authorities or through the national health system. The turnover in 2004 amounted to SEK 1.9 million (cf. Homepage for Praktikertjänst AB 2006).

2.1.2 Aleris

Aleris was founded in March 2005 and today is among the major healthcare companies, with activities in Sweden, Norway and Denmark operating in areas such as specialised care, audiology, physiological laboratories, radiotherapy medilab, elderly care and psychiatrics (www.aleris.se).

2.1.3 Carema

Carema is one of the other leading producers within medical services and social care in the Nordic Countries. It manages polyclinics, smaller local hospitals, specialised clinics for outpatient care, homes for the elderly, disabled and mentally ill on behalf of the counties and the municipalities. Carema is also the main actor regarding manpower and manning of healthcare staff on the market. It operates in Sweden, Norway and Finland (www.carema.se).

2.1.4 Capio

Capio has approx. 18,000 shareholders. The foreign-owned proportion of the share capital was 44% (2006). In June, the shares on the stock market were based on high risk companies and minor posts on Swedish insurance, risk and pension funds (such as the Second Swedish AP Fund 6.3%, Fourth Swedish AP Fund 5.3%, Orkla ASA 5.1%, AFA Insurance 3.7%). The Nordic healthcare market is Capio’s home market, especially the healthcare sectors in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Their market share accounts for approximately 9% of each country’s GDP. On their homepage, Capio says that “despite strained public finances and a partially unclear political direction, Capio’s view is that there are considerable opportunities for further development in the Nordic countries”. Besides the Nordic market, Capio also refers to itself as a leading actor in European healthcare, for instance in the UK, Spain, France, Portugal and Germany (www.capio.se).

2.1.5 S:t Göran

S:t Göran is one of the private hospitals under the portfolio of Capio. Jan Öhrling and Mats Sverke (2003) have analysed two hospitals in Sweden with a focus on all (management) employees. One of the hospitals, S:t Göran's Hospital Inc., was made a non-profit public stock company in 1994 and a for-profit private stock company in late 1999. The other