

Prologue

The aim of this annual report on the National Health System (NHS) is to contribute each year to the improvement and increased transparency of the NHS, offering a global and integrated vision of the actions being undertaken by the public health system to improve the health of the population it serves.

This edition marks the 5th year in which this annual report has been issued, and since the second edition in 2004 it has promoted and incorporated a participative methodology by collaborating with the health services of the autonomous communities.

The annual report on the National Health System for 2007 attempts to show the evolution of the principal characteristics of the NHS in the period 2004-2007, and is the first to be issued since the approval of the Quality Plan for the National Health System, a commitment made by the President of the Government José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero in his investiture speech.

2007 saw the first edition of the Quality Awards of the NHS, which are linked to this plan, and which received over 150 entries from all over the country.

It is our wish that this report can be used as an effective tool for mutual learning based on good practices, and can contribute to the improvement of knowledge and promotion of innovation within the National Health System, and enable the advance and sustained development of our health system.