

Researchers claim NAV has an active role in a controversial study. NAV rejects this.

The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration – NAV - has previously denied having a role in the controversial research project where ME patients are to be treated with the alternative method Lightning Process. Once again, the researchers claim that NAV has an active role in the project.

Read more here: [NAV rejects support for controversial study on alternative treatment](#)

I have been given access to the project application for "A 3-day intervention for CFS / ME" which has been sent to the Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics (REK). The application states that NAV will contribute to the project by identifying patients, informing people in the target group, and by recruiting participants:

- "Patients will be identified based on the stated CFS / ME diagnosis via the specialist health service, NAV and the GPs."
- "The study will be widely informed of in relevant public channels in addition to GPs and NAV employees being encouraged to inform people in the target group."
- «Recruitment takes place through a planned collaboration with both the specialist health service, GPs and NAV »

In addition, it is claimed that NAV will contribute with information to the project:

"Information will be obtained on sick leave, diagnosis and benefits (AAP, disability, sickness benefits, unemployment benefits) 12 months before participation in the study and 12-24 months after inclusion in the study."

Furthermore:

- "In the planned survey, we will measure improvement and possible deterioration using established questionnaires, as well as objective improvement of work ability with registered data from NAV."

The project application also states that: "This is a study that, for example, NAV will benefit from, because over several years they have paid for participants who have participated in the 3-day intervention".

NAV stated in February that *«We in the Directorate of Labor and Welfare are not aware that NAV provides any form of support for the project in question. It is not known to us which municipalities or NAV offices may be involved and, if so, in what way. As described in previous correspondence with you, it is very difficult to imagine that this will in any way be linked to NAV's use of measures and means»* and further that *«We have not been in dialogue with Landmark»*.

NAV has also stated that psychologist Nina Andresen's courses had nothing to do with the study:-

1. a course for NAV supervisors where the supervisors are encouraged to refer clients with CFS/ME to contact the Lightning Process organization Recovery Norway (RN) and
2. a course for clients with CFS/ME - where clients were to be encouraged to contact RN, and where a representative from RN was supposed to inform course participants directly

Read more here: [NAV cancels courses for users with CFS/ME](#)

I have asked NAV once again about their role in the project. NAV rejects that they have an active role. Today, the Labor and Service Department states that:

"As previously mentioned, this is not a project the directorate is aware of that NAV provides any form of support for. It also does not appear in the project application that NAV will have an active role in this project. According to the application, the data used is registered data from NAV. We therefore have no further comments on the case."

Written by

Nina E. Steinkopf

Former Health, Safety- and Quality Director in international petroleum industry,
now; ME-patient and patient advocate

Also read: [When NAV pushes shamanism](#)