

## **Millions in compensation for mercury poisoning**

*The League of Dental Assistants (THSF) has been campaigning for ten years for the right to occupational injury compensation for mercury poisoning. As a result of this, the insurance companies must pay compensation and the first multi-million payment is now a fact.*

By: Trygve Bergsland

One of the league's members has received compensation of NOK 2 million from the insurance company Kommunal Landspensjonskasse (KLP) and the head of THSF Gerd Bang-Johansen says that they expect similar payments to come in the future. "I am very pleased that the association has won through in this case, after fighting for so many years. Many of our members have had mercury poisoning approved by Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) as an occupational injury, and we expect these members to be paid considerable sums by the insurance company," says Bang-Johansen.

According to lawyer Øyvind Vidhammer, those who are covered by the KLP scheme will receive monthly compensation for permanent injury, in addition to the lump sum from the insurance company.

"You can choose to receive the compensation for permanent injury as either a monthly amount for life or in the form of a lump sum payment. This will therefore be based on an individual assessment, but in most of our cases I would recommend monthly payments," says Vidhammer.