

# **National Report Austria**

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# Ageing of society & the medical profession



- Ageing of society
  - Current **life expectancy**:  
Men: 78,9 years, Women: 83,7 years
  - More than 3 mio people over 65 until 2075
  - AMC: **Department for geriatric issues, diploma programme in geriatric medicine**

# Ageing of society & the medical profession



- Ageing of the medical profession
  - **Half of all country GPs to retire** until 2024
  - **21% of hospital doctors 55 years or older** (2015)
  - **AMC: Conference on future of the medical profession** in November 2016

# Remuneration of doctors in private practice



- Self-employed doctors **under contract with health insurance funds** vs. self-employed doctors **without contract with health insurance funds** („private consultants“)
- Self-employed doctors under contract with health insurance funds
  - Fees are **settled directly between doctor and health insurance fund**
  - Fees **specified in collective agreement** between Medical Chamber and health insurance fund

# Remuneration of doctors in private practice



- **Private consultants** without contract with health insurance fund
  - **Autonomous** with regard to **structure, calculation and level of costs**
  - Voluntary, non-binding **recommendations** issued by province medical chambers
  - **Patients pay fees directly to the doctor**
  - **Partial reimbursement by statutory health insurance fund** (80% of costs incurred if service had been rendered by doctor under contract)

# Remuneration of doctors in private practice



- **Fees for services provided to privately insured patients in hospitals**
  - Negotiated by province medical chambers with private insurance funds
  - Added up to the salary of hospital doctors

- Competence to impose **sanctions in case of violation of professional law delegated to AMC** by the state
- All doctors (ordinary or extraordinary members) subject to **disciplinary law according to Austrian Medical Act**
- Specific **disciplinary bodies** within **AMC**, taking **independent decisions**
- Sanctions ranging from **written reprimand to revocation of licence** to practice
- Decisions **appealable to administrative courts**

# Privacy of doctors vis-à-vis the media

- Possibility for doctors to **sue for reputational damage** in case of **false accusations via the media**
- **Disclosure of information** in the context of **disciplinary procedures** by the **AMC**:
  - AMC may **only** disclose information **relating to disciplinary law**, not to criminal law



# Privacy of doctors vis-à-vis the media



- AMC may **not disclose** to the public information about **course** and **outcome** of disciplinary **proceedings, contents of disciplinary files** and **oral proceedings** (unless proceeding is open to the public)
- **Doctor may report on outcome** of his/her disciplinary proceeding as long as professional duty of confidentiality is not violated

(§ 194 Austrian Medical 1998)

# Privacy of doctors vis-à-vis the media

- **Exception:** Decisions may be published in **Medical Journal** in order to protect reputation of medical profession and compliance with **professional duties** (§ 139 par. 10 Austrian Medical Act 1998)
- **No provision** in Austrian Medical Act stipulating that person having submitted disciplinary complaint or affected patients are informed about outcome of procedures

# Privacy of doctors vis-à-vis the media



- **AMC must publish in its Journal relevant contents of final disciplinary decisions in anonymized and abbreviated form (§ 185 Austrian Medical Act 1998)**

**Thank you for your  
attention!**