National report: Germany

23rd Symposium
of the Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians (ZEVA)

Sofia, 29 – 30 September 2016
National report: Germany
Aging of physicians and society

Source: German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), 2015
Doctors paid in different ways depending on how patient is insured

Nearly 90% of the population is covered by statutory health insurance
  - Contribution rate approx. 15.5% of gross income, paid partly by employee and partly by employer

SHI membership is mandatory for employees whose monthly gross income does not exceed € 4,237.50

The remaining approx. 10% of the population is privately insured
  - Self-employed individuals, civil servants, employees with monthly gross income exceeding € 4,237.50
The Federal Joint Committee is the main decision-making entity of the self-governing bodies of service providers and health insurance funds.

Formulates and implements in detail which services will be provided and under what conditions → benefits catalogue.

Authorised by law to issue legally binding directives.

Established in 2004, however predecessor committees date back to the 1920s.

Represents physicians, hospitals, health insurance funds and patients.
Benefits for private patients determined by the physician fee schedule for privately reimbursed medical services

Catalogue negotiated between the GMA and private insurance companies, represented by their umbrella organisation, and must then be confirmed by the German Bundestag

In the process of being renegotiated, but the complexity of the catalogue has led to delays
The licence to practise medicine can only be issued and revoked by the competent health authority in each state.
The State Chambers of Physicians can
- Conduct disciplinary proceedings on the basis of the professional code and issue the following sanctions in cases of proven misconduct:
  - Warning
  - Reprimand
  - Fine
  - Withdrawal of committee votes for a fixed period
  - Determination that the individual is unfit to practise

The Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians can
- Conduct disciplinary proceedings against practice-based physicians who are members of their organisations
- Revoke authorisation to treat patients in the statutory health insurance system in cases of proven misconduct
A doctor’s privacy rights are protected in the same way and to the same extent as the rights of every other citizen (Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany).

If privacy rights are violated in the media, a physician can demand an injunction, rectification and monetary compensation.

The German Criminal Code protects against insults, slander and defamation.

Decision about whether to publish the name of a doctor under investigation depends on whether his or her right to privacy outweighs the public interest, or vice versa.
Thank you!

Dr Max Kaplan
Vice-President of the German Medical Association
President of the Bavarian State Chamber of Physicians