

National Report

Austria

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Overview



1. CME/CPD in Austria
2. Medical self-governance in Austria
3. Primary Health Care (PHC) Centres
4. Prenatal sex selection
5. New Medical Training Regulations

- Practice of the medical profession is subject to **mandatory CME/CPD** requirements
- The CME/CPD requirement is established both in law (**Austrian Medical Act**) and by the Austrian Medical Chamber's **Code on CPD** (DFP-Verordnung)
- **Every 5 years**, every licenced doctor, GP or specialist has to collect **250 CPD (DFP) credits** (or **150 credits in 3 years** until June 2017)

- The **individual professional is responsible for compliance** with CME/CPD requirements
- Non-compliance with CME/CPD requirements entails **sanctions** ranging from a **written reprimand to an occupational ban** in the case of firm refusal of CME
- Consequences are **enforced by Austrian Medical Chamber**

Medical self-governance



- Primary political responsibility of the Austrian Medical Chamber: to **initiate or contribute to legislative procedures**
- **Delegated tasks:**
 - Administration of the **medical register**
 - Involvement in elaboration of **training programmes**
 - Approving **training hospitals**
 - Issuing GP/specialty **diplomas**
 - Accrediting **CME/CPD**, monitor compliance
 - Execute **disciplinary legislation** and arbitration

- Austrian Medical Act regulates substantial part of medical professional law
- Austrian Medical Chambers defines parts of the law itself and **acts autonomously**
 - Advertising activity
 - Specific provisions on CME/CPD obligations
 - Rules on hygiene standards for practices
- Attempts of the government to diminish influence have been averted

Structural change: PHC Centres



- **Pilot project** – opened May 18th 2015
- Staffed with 3 **GPs**, qualified **nurses** and **medical assistants**
- **Multiprofessional** team: more GPs, social workers, psychotherapists
- GPs work as independent, self-employed doctors

Structural change: PHC Centres



- Providing adequate care for **chronically ill, multimorbid** and **geriatric** patients
- Austrian Medical Chamber calls for legal provisions allowing for more attractive **group practice models**

Prenatal sex selection

- **To our knowledge, no prenatal selection on basis of a child's sex**
- **Up until 12 weeks of pregnancy – legal abortions**, before the child's sex can be determined
- 12 weeks plus – abortions are only carried out if medically indicated or if the woman is under 14 years at the time of conception

New training regulations



- 1 June 2015
- New organisation & structure of **GP and specialist training**
- 9 months **basic training period** (common trunk) prior to medical training

New training regulations



- GP Training: 42 months in total, including 6 months mandatory teaching practice
 - i.e. practical training in GP practice/outpatient hospital department
- Specialist medical training: 9 months basic training, duration of 72 months total
- Introduction of new specialities

Thank you for your
attention!