National report: Germany

22nd Symposium
of the Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians
(ZEVA)

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CME compulsory for physicians in Germany
- according to Professional Code and since 2004 by law (Social Code)
- State chambers of physicians are the competent authorities
- Physicians must accumulate 250 CME points within 5 years

Practice-based physicians must inform regional Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians of CME status
- Section 95 of Book Five of German Social Code

Potential sanctions for failing to meet CME requirements
- Financial penalties
- Loss of licence
Hospital-employed physicians must provide hospital medical director with proof of CME
- Section 137 of Book Five of German Social Code

There is no revalidation or recertification process in Germany
Self-governance fundamentally stable in Germany

Federal Joint Committee
- most influential institution of physicians’ self-governance
- Members: Healthcare providers and health insurance funds
- Negotiates benefits for patients in statutory insurance system

Hospital Structures Act (1 Jan. 2016)
- Entrusts Federal Joint Committee to develop quality standards for in-hospital treatments
Despite stability of physicians’ self-governance, some critics call for placing limits on this system in certain areas.

- Organ donation process
  - GMA plays important role in developing guidelines
  - Irregularities in system → criticism of excessive involvement
  - System reforms + stronger oversight = fewer critics
Rigid division between inpatient sector and private practice

Care Provision Strengthening Act (11 June 2015)
- Greater use of inpatient facilities in outpatient sector
- Goal: Address physician shortages and surpluses
- Centres of expertise to facilitate specialty training

German medical profession sceptical of more regulations in response to uneven distribution of doctors
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Prenatal sex selection

- Law on preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) (2011)
  - Supplements Embryo Protection Act (1990)
  - Physician can face imprisonment or fines for genetic examination of “embryonic cell” in vitro
  - Prohibits prenatal selection of embryo based on sex

- Medical, ethical, legal arguments for limited authorisation of PGD
  - High risk of serious genetic disorders, stillbirth or miscarriage
Recent healthcare legislation
- Hospital Structures Act
- Care Provision Strengthening Act
- E-health Law
- Act to Improve Hospice and Palliative Care
- Anti-corruption Law

German Medical Assembly 2015
- Challenges of global epidemics
- Communication skills of physicians

Medical confidentiality
Thank you!

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