

German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians



National report: Germany

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

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CME/CPD Requirements and Revalidation



- 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

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CME/CPD Requirements and Revalidation



- **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

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Physicians' self-governance



- 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

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Physicians' self-governance



- 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

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Structural changes in healthcare



- 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

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Key issues



- 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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