



# **Professional self-government of physicians in Poland. National report.**

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# Chambers of Physicians and Dentists in Poland

**Public law entities – organisational bodies of professional self-government.**

**Represent and associate two professions:  
all medical doctors and all dental practitioners.**

Organizational structure of the self-government:

- Polish (Supreme) Chamber of Physicians and Dentists
- 23 regional chambers and 1 chamber of military physicians and dentists

# Chambers of Physicians and Dentists in Poland

## **Regulatory authorities for the medical profession:**

- award the right to practice;
- set principles of professional ethics;
- supervise professional conduct;
- carry out disciplinary proceedings (medical courts);
- accredit and supervise CPD events.

## **Representation and protection of the profession:**

- mandatory opinions on draft legislation concerning health issues.

# CME/CPD in Poland

**Physicians in Poland are required (by state law and medical ethics) to take active part in Continuing Professional Development.**

A credit points system is applied - 200 points have to be collected in a period of every 4 years.

CPD may be conducted in the form of various events regulated by law and the points are awarded according to the scale, e.g.:

- 1 point is awarded for 1 hour of education (live events)
- e-learning - 0,2 point for a correct answer for 1 question

# CME/CPD in Poland

## The Chambers' role in CPD:

- registration of CPD providers;
- accreditation of CPD events;
- supervision over CPD events;
- confirmation and registration of credit points collected by physicians;
- supervision over the fulfilment of the CPD obligation by physicians.

**Chambers themselves  
also organize and provide CPD events.**

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Physicians

# CME/CPD in Poland

**In Poland the law currently does not provide for any directly applicable sanctions in case of non-compliance with CPD requirements.**

**However, this fact is noted in the register of physicians and:**

- constitutes a **breach of professional duty** imposed by the law on the professions of a physician and a dentist as well as the Code of Medical Ethics and may be the basis for the Chamber to start disciplinary sanctions against the professional;
- in certain situations can be taken into consideration as **possible basis to refer the physicians to fitness-to-practice assessment** (justified doubt as to the physician's fitness-to-practice);
- may have **consequences in the process of evaluating candidates** for certain positions in healthcare;
- **may be taken into consideration by a court of law** as one of the arguments against the doctor, e.g. in civil proceedings initiated by a patient seeking damages for alleged medical malpractice.

# Attempts to limit or abolish medical self-governance in Poland

**From time to time  
there is some argumentation and discussions  
between the government and the chambers  
about the scope  
of the professional self-government's  
tasks and competencies,  
but they remain unchanged already for 26 years.**

# Structural changes in the healthcare sector that affect the medical profession

- increasing "marketization,, of healthcare,
  - increase of red tape duties
  - "fiscalization" of healthcare

These developments limit the professional autonomy of the medical profession and contribute to dehumanization of medicine.



# Regulations in Poland to protect against prenatal sex selection

In Poland the recently adopted regulations generally forbid sex selection.

It is legal only in some extraordinary circumstances (sex-related diseases).

# Main developments over the recent period

**The so called „oncologic package”.**

On 1 January 2015 new regulations regarding treatment of oncology patients entered into force.

It was an initiative of the Minister of Health.

Despite undoubtedly good intentions the new regulation was negatively evaluated by majority of Polish doctors and after almost 9 months all the weaknesses seem to be true.

# Main developments over the recent period

**A few months ago  
there was a change of the Minister of Health.**

The new Minister, prof. Marian Zembala, is a renowned cardiac surgeon.

He started with a series of meetings with the Supreme Chamber to discuss current issues and expectations of the medical profession.

It is hard to say, whether it brings any results – the parliamentary elections are on 25 October.

Thank you very much for your  
attention

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