Legal Obligation to Continuing Medical Education for Physicians in Germany and the Role of Physician’s Chambers

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Selected Functions of Chambers of Physicians

- development of medical professional code
- supervision of medical profession
- regulation, supervision and certification of postgraduate specialist training and education (over 1000 specialty exams per year in „Hessen“)
- certification of CME (approx. 12,000 cases per year) and registration of CME points
- Organizing of CME measures, CME center
- arbitration in cases of medical malpractice (approx. 1200 cases per year in „Hessen“)
- ethical committee for biomedical research in humans
- quality assurance
Legal Bases for the Obligation of German Physicians to CME

Medical Professional Code

Social Legislation (SGB V)

- § 95d  Obligation for physicians in ambulant care to prove CME to 'Regional Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians' (first 30. June 2009)

- § 137  Obligation for hospital physicians to prove CME to the managing medical director (first 31.12.2010)
Numbers of Physicians in Hessen

- auth./corp.
- hospitals
- amb. care
- not active
- all phys.

Numbers of Physicians in Hessen
CME Supervising Physicians' Organizations in Germany

( Public Law Corporations with obligatory membership )

• 17 state chambers of physicians ( all physicians )

• 17 regional associations of statutory health insurance physicians
  ( mainly physicians in ambulant care )
Current Problems with the Certification of 'CME Events' - I

- Evaluation and rating of scientific publications and presentations (Category F in the 'Regulations Continuing Education and Continuing Education Certificate' of physicians' chambers.)
- What is a scientific publication/presentation and which not?
- How many points for what?
- How to organize the process efficiently and effectively?
Current Problems with the Certification of 'CME Events' - II

- Distinction between for CME suitable contents and measures and medically unscientific things.
- Demarcation of 'CME-suitable' medical-scientific / medical contents of other, for example purely economic, topics.
- Uniform decision and approach of the 17 state physicians' chambers.
Current Problems with CME Point Accounts

- Not appropriate behavior of numerous organizers. (The format regulations for certificates of participation and lists of participants are very often not considered and/or bar code labels with physician numbers are not used.)

- Organizers report events and participants to the nationwide scoring registration platform only with large delay.

- Result: The chambers cannot book acquired points up-to-date on the accounts of the members and these have problems to prove their CME points in time.
Principles of the CME Proof in Accordance with Social Law - I

- Physicians have to prove a minimum of 250 CME points every 5 years.
- The chambers of physicians certify CME offers and evaluate them with points.
- The chamber of the state in which a CME - meeting takes place is responsible.
- In Hessen we don‘t accredit certain organizers, but do certify the individual events.
Principles of the CME Proof in Accordance with Social Law - II

• Each physician has a personal 'CME identification number' and can access on-line his individual CME-point account. By this way he can see his current total scoring and also find out how many points he acquired in a selected period.

• These accounts are managed by the state physicians‘ chambers and interlaced all over Germany.

• The chamber informs the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians by electronic data exchange, which physicians acquired the necessary number of CME points.
CME Proof for Specialists in Hospitals

• First proof deadline is December 31, 2010.
• CME points are to be reported to the managing medical director of the hospital by all board certified specialists.
• In total 250 points acquired within the last 5 years of working as a specialist are necessary.
• 150 of these points must have been acquired by topics of the own speciality, 100 may result from other topics.
• Excerpts from their CME accounts will enable doctors to document their points and which are speciality-referred.
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