



Landesärztekammer Hessen
Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts

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

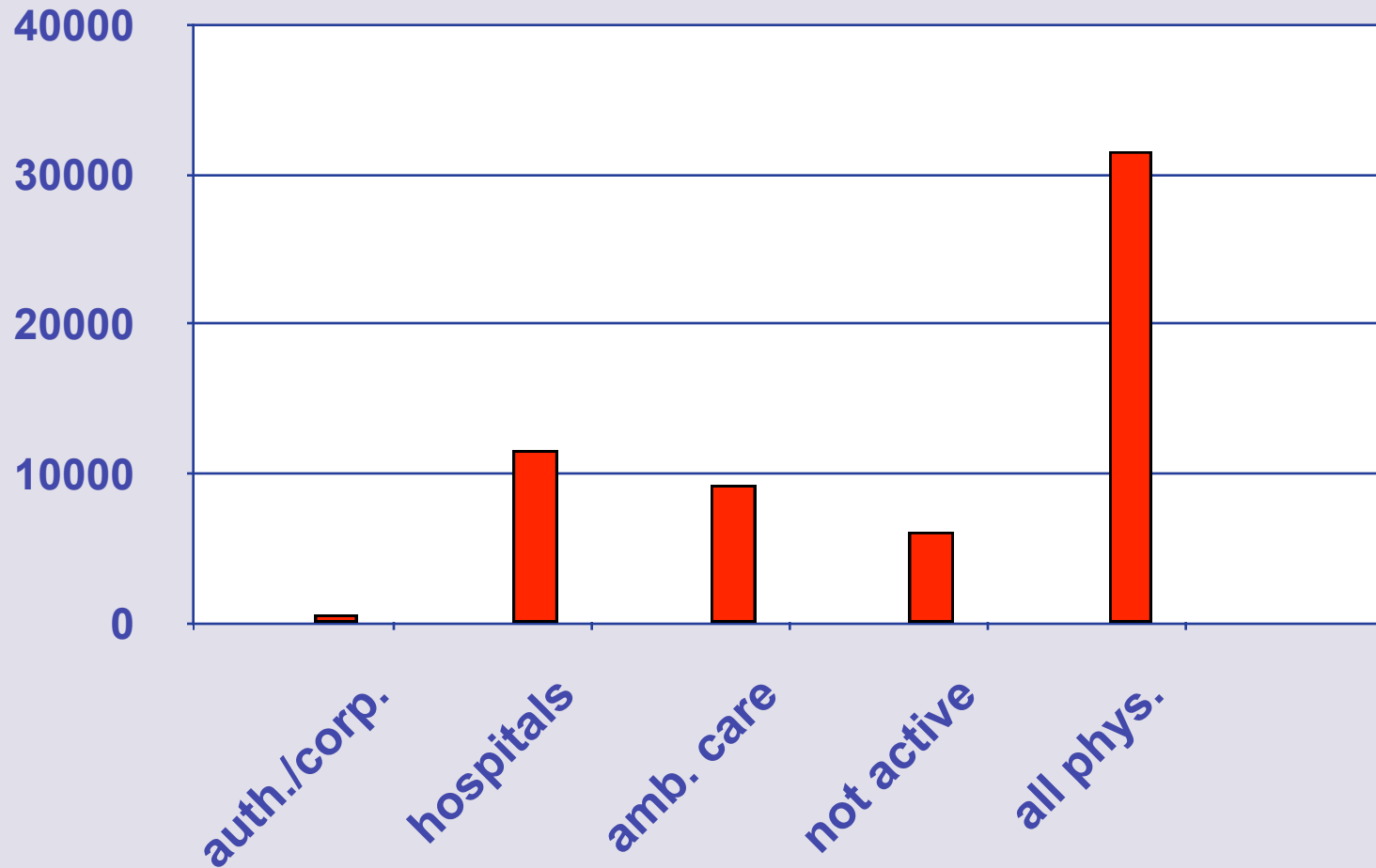
Medical Professional Code

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





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.**

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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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