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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS**

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**AUSTRIAN FEDERAL BODY  
OF EMPLOYED DOCTORS**



**FEMS / PWG – National Report Austria**

**1. Reduction of administration due to the introduction of so-called documentation assistants**

The administrative workload for physicians in the hospitals has been a major problem in the last years. Physicians have to use more than 30 % of their working time for administration and documentation. Especially doctors in training are affected by the high administrative effort and tend to spend more than 50% of their working time with documentation.

To solve this situation in a constructive way, the Austrian Medical Chamber requires the introduction of so-called documentation/administrative assistants who should be responsible for the collection of medical data. This would offer substantial improvement.

As a side effect physicians will have more time for their patients and can therefore provide a more personal treatment, more time for each patient.

**2. eHealth**

The Austrian Medical Chamber is involved in a working group discussing the introduction of an electronic patient record (ELGA) in Austria, and was asked to submit a cost/utilization analysis of the required equipment and changes induced by such a project. The patient record should be introduced no later than 2012.

At this very moment many important questions have not been answered yet (for example what is the medical benefit, is there an obligation for physicians to participate, among others) and have to be clarified.

Furthermore, the realization of e-medication with due consideration of patient safety will be pushed forward by the Austrian Government.

Being the main users, physicians have to be involved in all fields.

### **3. Health care across borders**

The Austrian Medical Chamber in principle supports the mobility of patients and health professionals, but is of the opinion that every member state has the responsibility towards its citizens to provide sufficient capacities in the health care sector in order to guarantee self-sufficient medical care of the population. The training of physicians and the organisational and financial facilities of the national health care systems should meet the highest quality standards; furthermore, it is of high importance that every member state has the capacity to train a sufficient number of physicians as required by their population and health service demands.

The Austrian Medical Chamber claims that medical information by doctors shall not provide any differentiation between foreign and national patients.

### **4. Anti-corruption law**

As already mentioned in the last meeting a new anti-corruption-Act has been in force in Austria since the beginning of 2008. In the meantime the requirements of the Austrian Medical Chamber have been met and the law was renewed which releases the situation in the Austrian health care sector.

The Austrian Medical Chamber requested legal clarifications from the Federal Ministry of Justice as to the clear and explicit differentiation between legal and illegal acts, in order to overcome the present incertitude and to maintain medical training, CME, clinical studies, sponsoring and third party fund raising in the future.

Employers – in cooperation with the works councils, representatives of employed doctors and medical chambers are requested to establish reasonable and transparent guidelines regarding the initiation of research projects, as well as congress participation.

Furthermore the medical code of behaviour of the Austrian Medical Chamber, also known as Code of conduct (this code sets out a framework for dealing with the pharmaceutical industry and the producers of medical technology) has to be respected.

## **5. European Working time directive**

The Austrian Medical Chamber requires permanent controls of the maximum working hours to guarantee fit doctors, lege artis medicine and legal working conditions. For that we are in permanent contact with the Austrian Authorities and the Austrian labour control inspectors.

Vienna, 4.6.2009

Dr.S/nh/gh