



## **Guideline Promotion and Implementation**

### **The Physicians' National Strategy for Implementing Evidence based Healthcare in Germany**

G. Ollenschläger, H. Kirchner, S. Saenger, D. Sonntag, H. Thole,  
C. Thomeczek, O. Weingart, G. Antes M. Lelgemann, R. Kunz, I. Kopp,  
W. Lorenz, G. Jonitz

AGREE / G-I-N International Meeting

Edinburgh, 14-15 November 2003

# Background and Objectives

In 1995, the German Physicians Selfgovernmental Bodies established a national **Agency for Quality in Medicine** (AQuMed) in order to promote quality in healthcare.

In 1998, AQuMed started a multifaceted strategy aiming at nation wide dissemination and implementation of Evidence based Medicine (**including Eb Guidelines**).

The presentation describes the strategy's tools and activities, as well as its influence on health policy in Germany 2003.



# Study Design

The project aimed at

- (1) consensus on a national policy for evidence based health care in Germany;
- (2) networking people and organisations interested in the EBM field;
- (3) development of EBM focused educational strategies for consumer, health care provider and policy maker;
- (4) broad availability and use of EB information (**guidelines**).

For that purpose, AQUMED initiated multiple working groups, national meetings bringing together the expertise of more than 300 individuals of all parts of the health care system.

## Tools / Activities:.

### 1. Use of Eb Guidelines for Provider

“German Guideline for Guidelines” [1996]

“German Instrument for Critical Appraisal of Guidelines” [1997]

“Guideline Clearing Reports” disclosing best available guidelines for health care topics of national priority [1999]

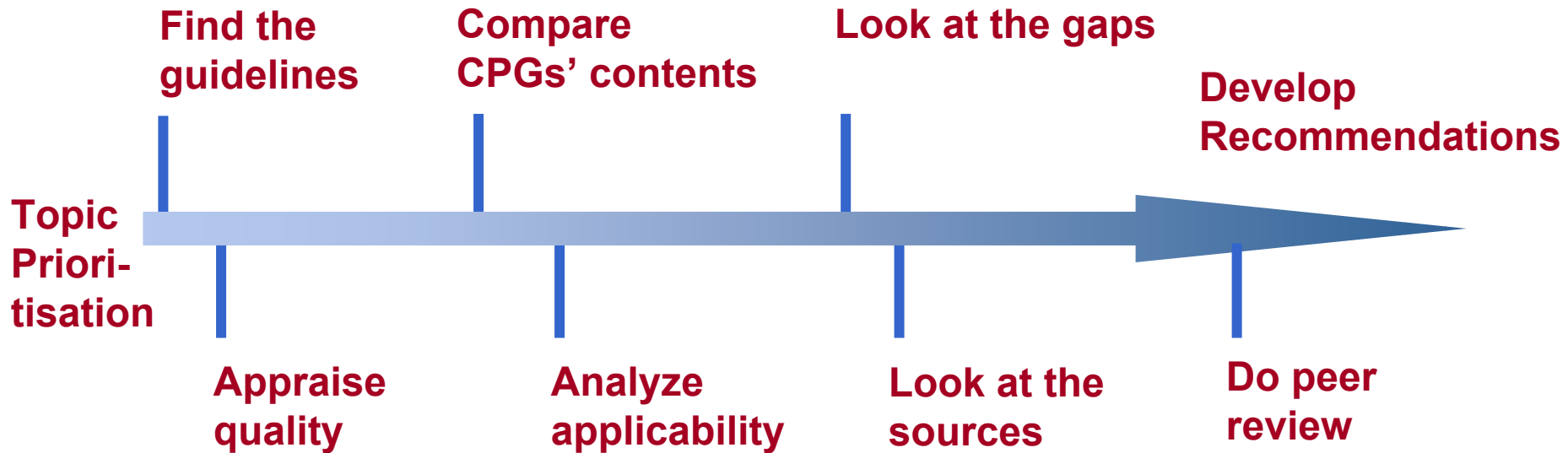
“German Guideline Manual” – Standards for development and use of Eb guidelines [2000]

Local tailoring / implementation of EBG in in- and outpatient care [2000].

Nat. Programme for Disease Management Guidelines [2002]

# Use of Eb Guidelines for Provider

## A. Local tailoring / implementation of EBG in outpatient care



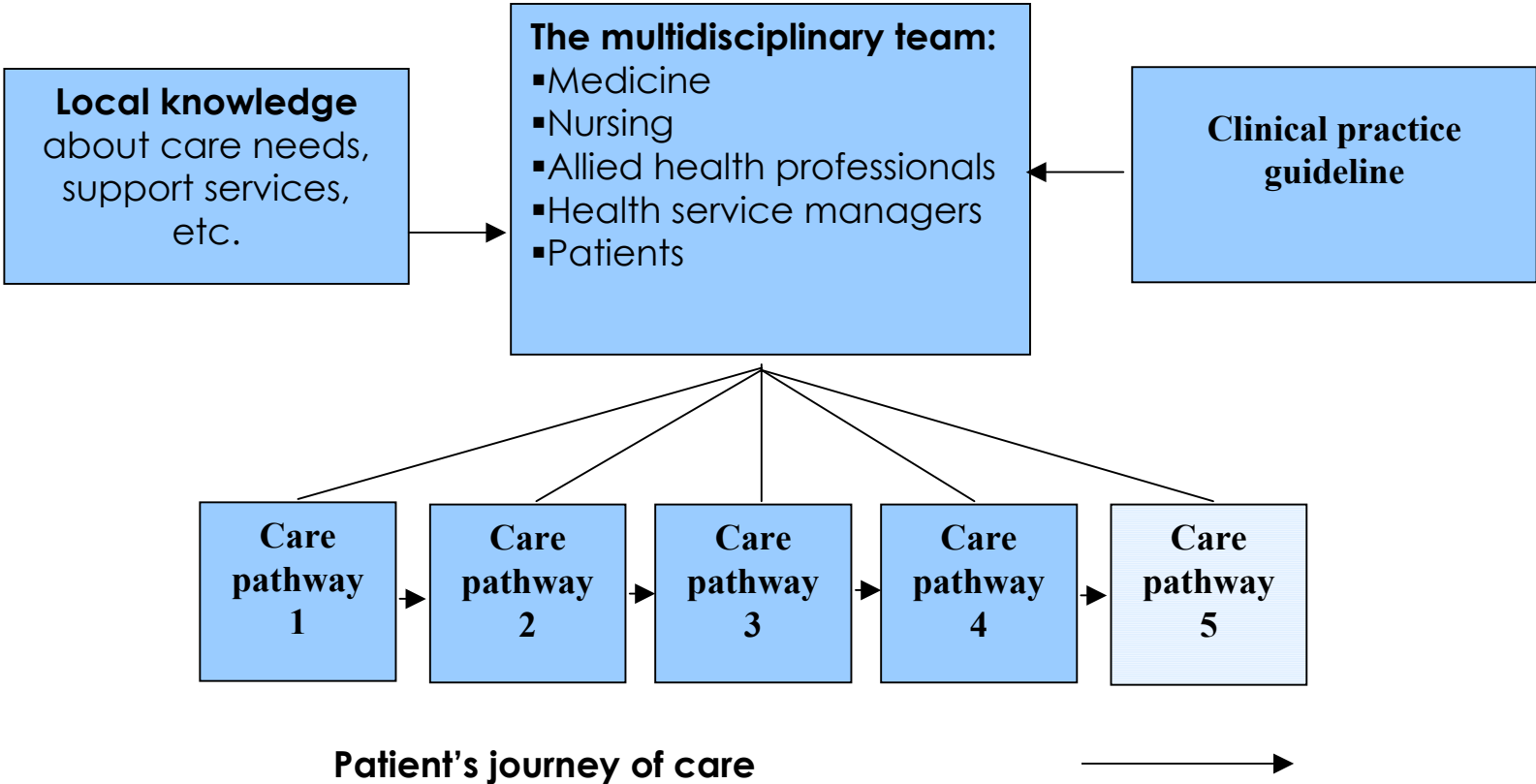
Regional guidelines based on national CPGs

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CPD in „Physicians' Quality Circles“

# Use of Eb Guidelines for Provider

## B. Local EBG pathways in inpatient care



## Tools / Activities:.

### 2. Use of Eb Guidelines for Patients / Consumer

Critical appraisal of health information using the German language

DISCERN-criteria ([www.discern.de](http://www.discern.de))

Dissemination of appraised consumer information by the web-based

Patient Information Clearinghouse [www.patienten-information.de](http://www.patienten-information.de)

Joint development of high quality patient information by self help organizations and scientific medical societies.

# Tools / Activities:.

## 3. Educational Strategies

**Germ. J CME & QA** - joint J of AQuMed, Germ Cochrane C., G. EbM Network, Ass. Scient. Med. Soc. [1999]

**Nat. Curr. „EBM“** – standard. Postgrad. Training & CME [2002]

**Nat. Curr for EB-Consumer Health Counselling** [2002]

**Nat. Curr. EB Disease Management** [2003]

**German Lang. Edition of Clinical Evidence** [since 2002]

**Nat. Manual for EbM Implement. in Ambulatory Care** [2003]



# Tools / Activities:

## 4. Networking

**Germ. Guideline Clearinghouse** - GMA, NASHIP, G. Hosp. Ass, Fed. Stat. and Privat Health Ins. Funds, Stat.. Pension Ins., [since 1999]  
EbM Network, Ass. Scient. Med. Soc. [1999]

**Germ. Clearinghouse for Pat. Information** – GMA, NASHIP, Germ. Cochrane C., Nat. Patient Forum [since 1999]

**Germ. Network for EBM** – Multidisciplinary. Ass. for EBHC [since 2000]

**Guidelines International Network** – intern. partnership [since 2002]

**Nat. Progr. for DMP Guidel.** GMA, NASHIP, Ass.Scient.Med. Soc.  
[since 2003]



# Conclusion

Within 5 years after the project's start, the major national and regional associations and organisations of health care provider, consumer, and sickness funds in Germany have been adapting basic ideas, of Evidence based Medicine, as well as tools and procedures (guidelines + guideline implementation strategies) .

The Federal Parliament passed amendments to the National Social Code making the use of evidence based information (f.e. guidelines and HTA) mandatory for statutory health insurance programmes.

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