

German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians



The German Healthcare System and the Advantages of Self-Governance

15.04.2008

Agenda



Ø Players

Ø Self-Governance of Physicians

Ø Chambers

Ø SHI-Physicians Organisation

Ø Conclusions

How did it start?



- Ø 31. May 1883: Law on Health Care Insurance passed by the Reichstag
- Ø Statutory Health Insurance (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung) was organized from the beginning in the autonomy of employers and employees under the supervision of the government

Players - Organizational Structure



- Ø The Federal Assembly, the Federal Council, and the Federal Ministry of Health are the key actors on national level.
- Ø Public health is mainly competence of the 16 Federal States.
- Ø The Federal States are also responsible for planning inpatient capacities and financing investments in hospitals.
- Ø Mandatory statutory health insurance (Bismarck Model) for employees.
- Ø Private/ public mix of providers.
- Ø Self-governance of physicians and statutory health insurance funds.

Players - Basic Data



Ø Population of 82.2 million*

Ø GDP à € 29,455 per capita*

Ø Expenditures for Healthcare:

à approx. € 240 billion

à € 2,911 per capita p.a.**

à 10,7 % of GDP**

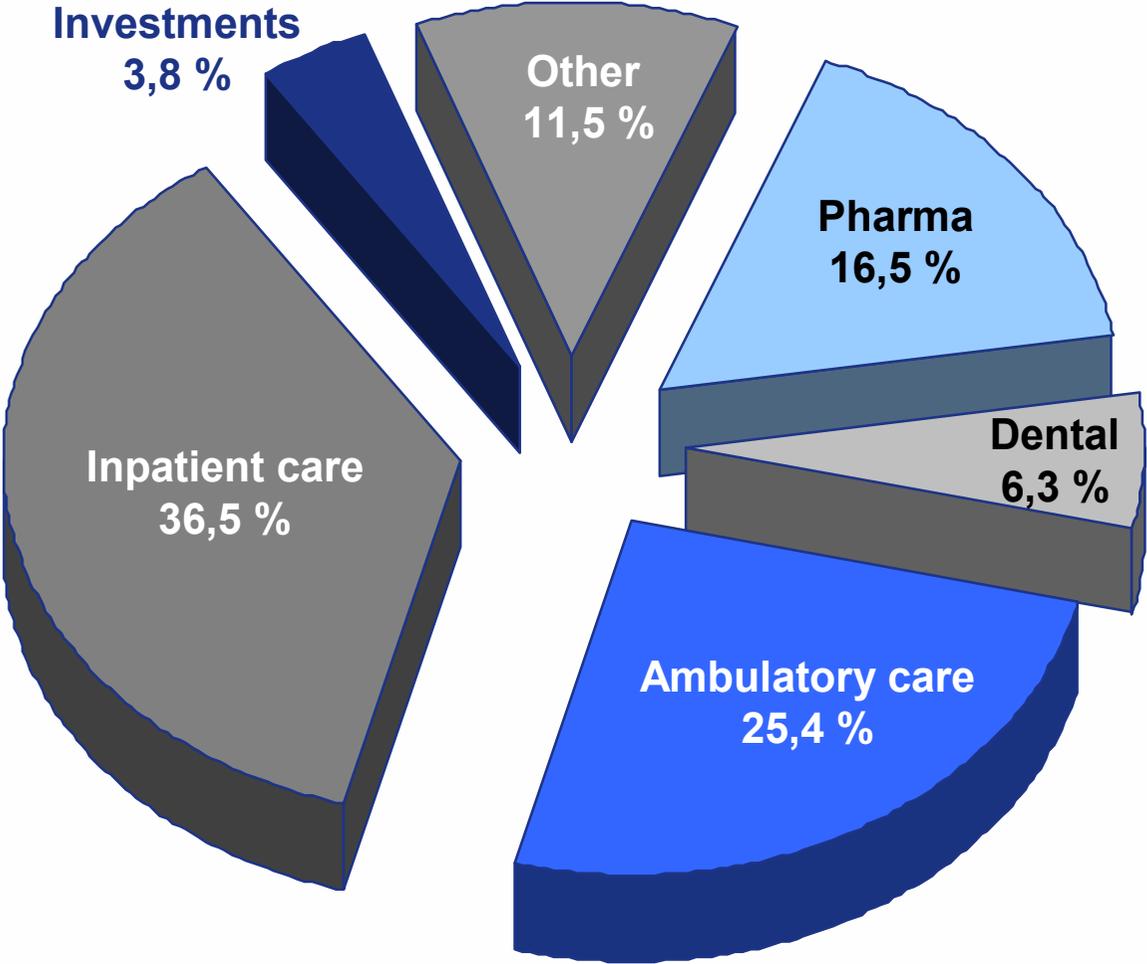
à Highest share of EU

à Third highest in the world

* Source: 2007, Statistisches Bundesamt Deutschland

** Source: 2005, Statistisches Bundesamt Deutschland

Total Healthcare Expenditures 239,4 Billion Euro



Source: 2005 Statistisches Bundesamt

The German Health Care System



- Ø Commonwealth Fund Survey
 - Ø Fastest Services
 - Ø No Waiting Lists
 - Ø Lowest Infection rate
 - Ø Lowest Readmissionrate
 - Ø Best Services in Chronic Diseases

The German Health Care System



Ø Why is the German Health Care System one of the best in the world?

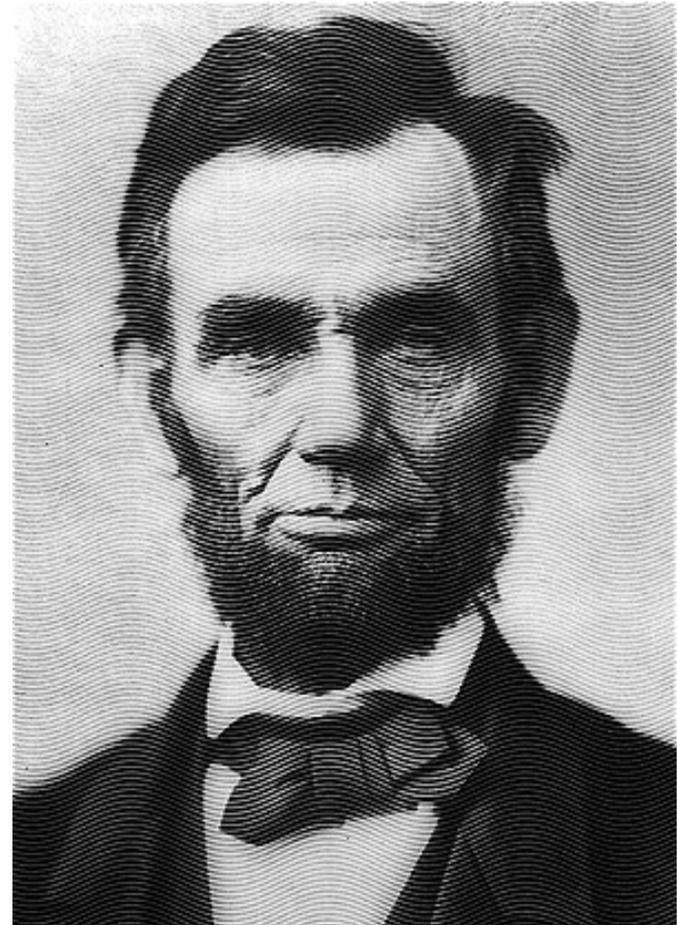
Ø Because it is organized to the need of the people by the specialists who know what they are doing....

Subsidiarity



“the government should only do for the people what the people are unable to do for themselves.”

Abraham Lincoln



The German Paradox: High Quality and Low Satisfaction



Views of the Health Care System in Six Nations

Percent saying:	AUS	CAN	GER	NZ	UK	US
Only minor changes needed	23	21	16	27	30	23
Fundamental changes needed	48	61	54	52	52	44
Rebuild completely	26	17	31	20	14	30



Players - Facing Problems of Rising Costs



- Ø Ageing population
- Ø Increasing expectations
- Ø Advancement of health care technologies,
expensive treatments and pharmaceuticals
- Ø Shortfall of contributions

Self Governance of Physicians



Ø Two Tiered system:

Ø ALL practising physicians

Ø State Chambers (Ärztekammer)

Ø Statutory Health Insurance Physicians

Ø SHI-Organisation (Kassenärztliche Vereinigung)



Providers – Self Governance of SHI Physicians (out patient care)

- Ø Compulsory Membership
- Ø Regional associations of SHI physicians negotiate contracts for ambulatory services collectively for all SHI-affiliated physicians on an annual basis.
- Ø The regional associations of SHI physicians distribute the resources among their members according to the nationally uniform scale of relative point values and regionally adapted rules.
- Ø Reform: Reimbursement of physicians according to actual Euro amounts

Self-Governance of the Medical Profession

SHI-Physician Organisation (Kassenärztliche V.)



Public Tasks:

- Ø Guarantee of ambulatory services
- Ø Registration of SHI-physicians
- Ø Surveillance of quality in ambulatory care
- Ø Standards of economic distribution
- Ø Negotiation of tariff with insurances
- Ø Distribution of fees

Professional Representation:

- Ø Representation in politics & media
- Ø Lobbying for the SHI-physicians

Self-Government of the Medical Profession

The State Chamber of Physicians



- Ø Legal Basis: Statutorily regulated system of self-government.
- Ø The Chambers of Physicians are responsible for safeguarding the professional interests of the physician community.
- Ø They exercise the sovereign task of registering and supervising physicians.
- Ø They regulate and promote postgraduate medical education and continuing medical education.
- Ø They ensure the high ethical and scientific standards of doctors.

Self-Government of the Medical Profession

The German Medical Association



- Ø The German Medical Association (Bundesärztekammer) is the joint association of the 17 State Chambers of Physicians in Germany.
- Ø The GMA mutually coordinates their goals and works towards the most uniform possible regulation of all activities in the different regions.
- Ø The GMA mediates the exchange of opinions and activities between the State Chambers,

Self-Government of the Medical Profession

The Annual Medical Assembly



- Ø The 17 State Chambers send a total of 250 delegates to the Annual Medical Assembly which serves as the "parliament" of the physicians in Germany.
- Ø The Assembly elects the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the German Medical Association.
- Ø The Assembly elaborates and adopts regulations regarding the professional code of conduct and postgraduate medical education curricula, passes changes in the statutes of the GMA and agrees on official positions on health policy issues.

Self-Governance of the Medical Profession Chamber (Ärzttekammer)



Public Tasks:

- Ø Professional Code and supervision of the profession
- Ø Postgraduate Medical Education
- Ø Certification of particular training
- Ø Continuing Medical Education
- Ø Registration

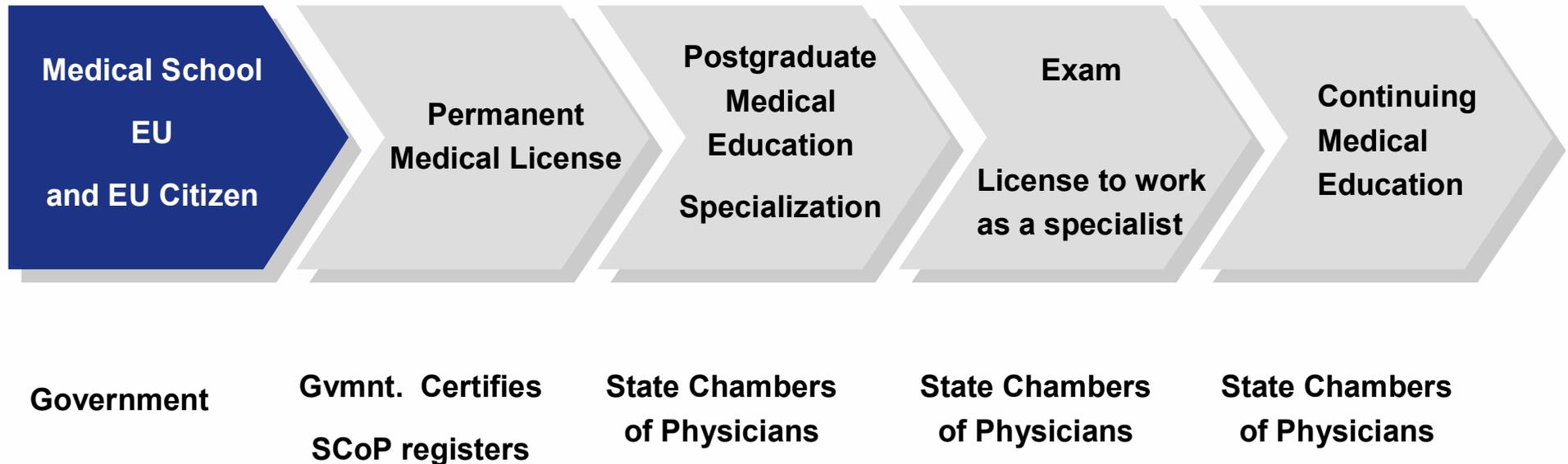
Professional Representation:

- Ø Representation in politics & media
- Ø Lobbying for the Profession
- Ø Expert's reports
- Ø Support of public health service
- Ø Publication of a press organ

Social Tasks:

- Ø Pension scheme

Getting Licensed as a Physician in Germany



Drug Commission of the German Medical Association



- Ø Expert scientific committee of the German Medical Association with 40 full and 110 extraordinary members from various medical disciplines.
- Ø It provides the medical profession with information on efficient and effective drug therapy, and has developed a database for the spontaneous recording of adverse drug reactions (side-effects).

Quality Assessment Commission of the German Medical Association



- Ø Development and implementation of quality assessment programs in cooperation with statutory health insurance (combined self-governance)
- Ø Setting up critical incidence reporting system (CIRS)
- Ø Patient safety programs – together with patients organizations and SHI

Transplantation Commission of the German Medical Association



- Ø Development and implementation of transplantation programs
- Ø Defining ethical guidelines for organ distribution under recognition of medical prerequisites (such as donor matching, cold ischemic time, transport infrastructure)
- Ø Investigating and auditing alleged breaches of conduct (supposed organ trafficking, kickbacks etc.)

Scientific Advisory Board of the German Medical Association



- Ø 37 scientists from virtually every medical discipline.
- Ø Advises the medical profession, administration and political stakeholders on scientific issues.
- Ø Preparation of discussion preparing and implementing laws concerning the health system and in the exercise of the medical profession.
- Ø Develops guidelines, recommendations and statements concerning diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, taking both ethical and legal aspects into consideration.

The European Perspective



- Ø Supporting the integration policy of the European Union.
- Ø Representing German physicians at the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), which coordinates the standpoints of the national medical professions on medical training, exercise of the profession, migration and health care within the European Union.



Advantages of Self-Governance



Ø Let the specialists do their job....

Ø Unity of action and responsibility

Ø Government processes are restricted to frame work setting and supervision

Ø It's cheap and fast

Ø (when it is accepted and works...)

Problems with Self-Governance



- Ø Political influence in medical/scientific decisions is low
- Ø Greater demand for transparency
- Ø Will to compromise

Self-Governance of the Medical Profession Chamber (Ärzttekammer)



Cost for the Government:

Cost for Physicians

0% **0,6%**

of gross income out of
professional services

Self-Governance of the Medical Profession SHI-Physician Organisation (Kassenärztliche V.)



Cost for the Government :

Cost for Physicians:

0%

2,0%



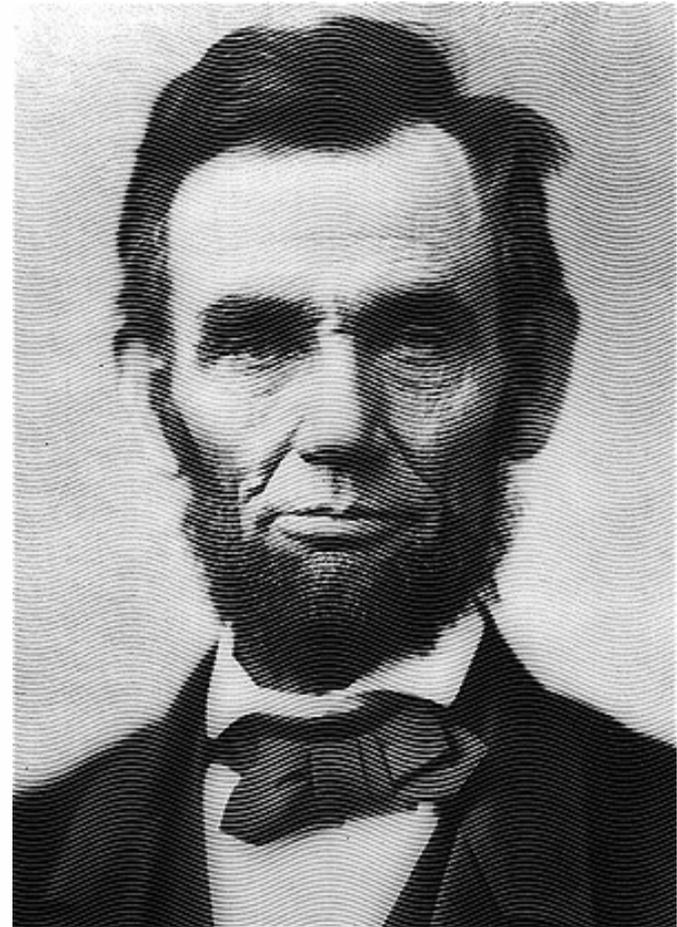
Ø Self Governance does not automatically diminish the amount and level of conflict

Subsidiarity



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**One World
One Medicine**

