

“Quality monitoring as a catalyst for quality improvement: Lessons from a neighbour”

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AQUA – background and areas of expertise

- Founded 1995
- Independent, impartial, focussed on quality measurement and improvement in health care, interdisciplinary team, > 120 staff members
- **German hospital quality monitoring and transsectoral quality of care program for the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA)**
- Quality improvement and accreditation programmes with indicators and benchmarking (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Algeria, Kenya, Tanzania, etc.)
- Development and implementation of data based programs for improvement of chronic care, multimorbidity and rational prescribing (Germany)

NL and D: Sharing the same problems

- Not all patients do receive recommended (evidence based) care
- Reasonable amount of tests or medications prescribed are not evidence based, unnecessary and potentially harmful
- Patients may be harmed because of adverse events (medication errors, complications, infections, etc)
- Large, unexplained differences in quality and safety between hospitals, facilities and providers
- Implementation of change in patient care usually slow
- Implementation of evidence based guidelines slow

Some approaches used in Germany

- Disease management programs
- For more complex patients: Case management, Telemedicine
- Evidence based guidelines
- Focus on patient safety (i.e. critical incident reporting, hand hygiene, checklists etc.)
- Indicators for quality of care (clinical data, claims data, patient reporting)
- Use of peer influence (quality circles, peer visits)
- Use of clinical pathways
- Experiments with payment systems



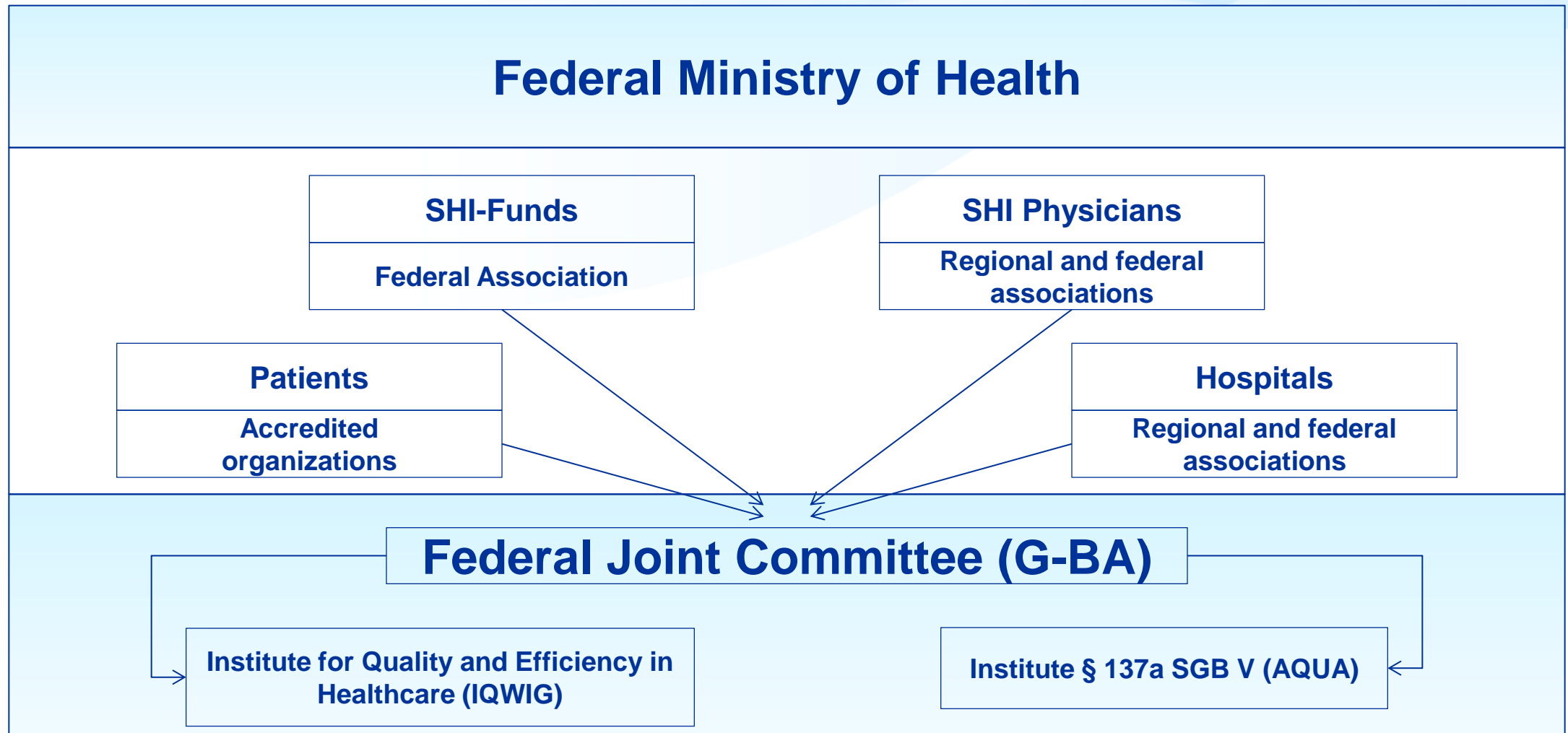
Quality improvement in healthcare in Germany

- Many different activities and systems to measure and improve quality
- Stop at the door of health care organisations
- Difficulties in follow up and measures of outcome
- More patients are treated in different health care sectors at the same time
- Quality problems because of lack of communication and information breaks >> patients get **lost in transition**
- **But:** one national framework for quality monitoring (external quality monitoring in Hospitals and cross-sectoral), one legal framework: directives of the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA)

YOU ARE LEAVING
THE AMERICAN SECTOR
ВЫ ВЫЕЗЖАЕТЕ ИЗ
АМЕРИКАНСКОГО СЕКТОРА
VOUS SORTEZ
DU SECTEUR AMERICAIN
SIE VERLASSEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR



Simplyfied model of „power“ in the German healthcare system



SHI Social Health Insurance

Tasks of AQUA for the Federal Joint Committee:

Monitoring Quality in..

- Hospitals, practices (primary care / specialist care /dental care)
- Ambulatory surgery (day surgery)
- Outpatient care of hospitals (§ 116b SGB V)
- Disease-management-programs (DMPs)

Where does the money come from?

- Approx. 90% of population is insured by Social Health Insurance funds (AOK, BARMER, TK etc.), 10% by private insurers
- Double layer of specialists (hospital, private practice);
36 University hospitals;
compared to NL weak primary care; no patient lists,
competition between and at all levels of care, overcapacity and
inverse distribution of providers
- Hospitals are payed through DRGs (except Psychiatry); additional
funding for infrastructure by regions (“Länder”)
- Hospitals are charged supplementary costs per case for DRG system
(€ 1,05) ; for G-BA (€ 1,27)
- Hospitals get supplementary honorary for data collection for quality
monitoring (€ 0,70 per case)

How national quality monitoring is organised

- One national institution (AQUA) „the § 137a institute“
 - Analysing and reporting data, dissemination of results to regional level, IT-standards for data collection, data validation, rules for computing, risk adjustment, national reference results, development and maintenance of national set of indicators
 - Collecting, feedback and direct interaction (like visits) with hospitals for procedures with small numbers of cases (i.e. transplantation surgery)
- 17 regional „quality offices“
 - Collecting data, feedback and direct interaction (like visits) for all other procedures (hospitals and in the future practices)
 - Use results and reference values which AQUA provides

Indicator development process in Germany

- Priorisation process for theme/topic (Federal Joint Committee)
- Analysis of current care, potentials for improvement, sources of data
- Scoping workshop with stakeholders (medical and nursing experts, patient representatives, professional bodies, payers, etc)
- Search for existing guidelines and indicators
- Interdisciplinary expert panel, including patient representatives, to discuss, modify and evaluate indicators (modified RAND appropriateness method). Conflict of interests made transparent.
- Report on development process (to be commented by stakeholders)
- Technical and practical piloting with health care facilities, regional level and software companies
- Modification and roll out

Where does the data come from?

- Clinical data
 - from medical records
 - additional recorded information
 - Filter software to detect cases
 - Nominal-actual comparison („Soll-Ist Vergleich“)
- Routine insurance or claims data (i.e. DRG, OPS and ICD codes, deaths, medication etc.)
 - Decrease burden of documentation
 - New legislation was necessary to allow this
 - Very useful for bringing information from different healthcare providers and sectors together for one patient
 - detection of „quality gaps“ and for risk adjustment
- Patient surveys

Public reporting in Germany

- 289 indicators (out of 484) in 30 areas of care mandatory for public reporting on hospital level. Covers approx. 20% of all hospital cases.
- National report with reference values (AQUA)
- Hospitals are obliged to publish own quality report every year
- Data used by different websites in a comparative way „Weisse Liste“, „AOK Arztnavigator“ etc. etc.
 - Used by patients, referring providers, payers, policy makers etc.
- Different activities of groups of hospitals to add other indicators and patient surveys to national indicators



Sie befinden sich hier: [Start](#) > Krankenhäuser

Ergebnisse Ihrer Krankenhaussuche

In der Tabelle sehen Sie das Ergebnis ihrer Suche. Dies ermöglicht Ihnen, Krankenhäuser in Bezug auf die Entfernung, die Anzahl behandelter Frühgeborener und das Überleben von Frühgeborenen unter 1500 g zu vergleichen. Weiterhin können Sie die Ergebnisse in auf- oder absteigender Reihenfolge sortieren oder eine neue Suche starten.

Krankenhaussuche

Ihre PLZ / Ort

Gewünschter Umkreis

[Neue Suche](#)

Wählen Sie in der angezeigten Übersicht ein Krankenhaus aus, um weitere Ergebnisse zu erhalten.

Ihre Suche ergab 7 Ergebnisse im Umkreis von 100 km um 80331 München

Krankenhaus	Entfernung	Fallzahl	Behandlungs- routine <small>risikobereinigte Anzahl</small>	Überleben von Frühgeborenen <small>Gesamt</small>	Überleben von Frühgeborenen <small>ohne schwere Erkrankung</small>
			Bundesmaximum: 255,85 Bundesminimum: 0,70 Bundesdurchschnitt: 39,55	Bundesmaximum: 1,06 Bundesminimum: 0,93 Bundesdurchschnitt: 1,00	Bundesmaximum: 1,12 Bundesminimum: 0,84 Bundesdurchschnitt: 1,00
Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München Kinderklinik Schwabing	2 km	33	Krankenhaus: 38,36	Krankenhaus: 1,02	Krankenhaus: 0,95
Städtisches Klinikum München GmbH - Klinikum Schwabing	2 km	46	Krankenhaus: 26,52	Krankenhaus: 0,95	Krankenhaus: 0,94
Städtisches Klinikum München GmbH, Klinikum Harlaching	7 km	33	Krankenhaus: 30,53	Krankenhaus: 1,02	Krankenhaus: 1,08
Klinikum der Universität München	9 km	126	Krankenhaus: 144,13	Krankenhaus: 1,02	Krankenhaus: 0,93



Begriffserläuterung (Glossar)

- » Behandlungsroutine
- » Bundesdurchschnitt
- » Bundesmaximum
- » Bundesminimum
- » Entfernung
- » Ergebniskarte
- » Fallzahl
- » Frühgeburt
- » Wert des Krankenhauses
- » Überleben von Frühgeborenen
- » Überleben von Frühgeborenen ohne schwere Erkrankung



Key instrument for improvement: „Structured Quality Dialogue“

– participants and responsibilities

Direct procedure

The G-BA's
Subcommittee for Quality Assurance

AQUA Institute

Federal Experts'
Working Groups

Indirect procedure

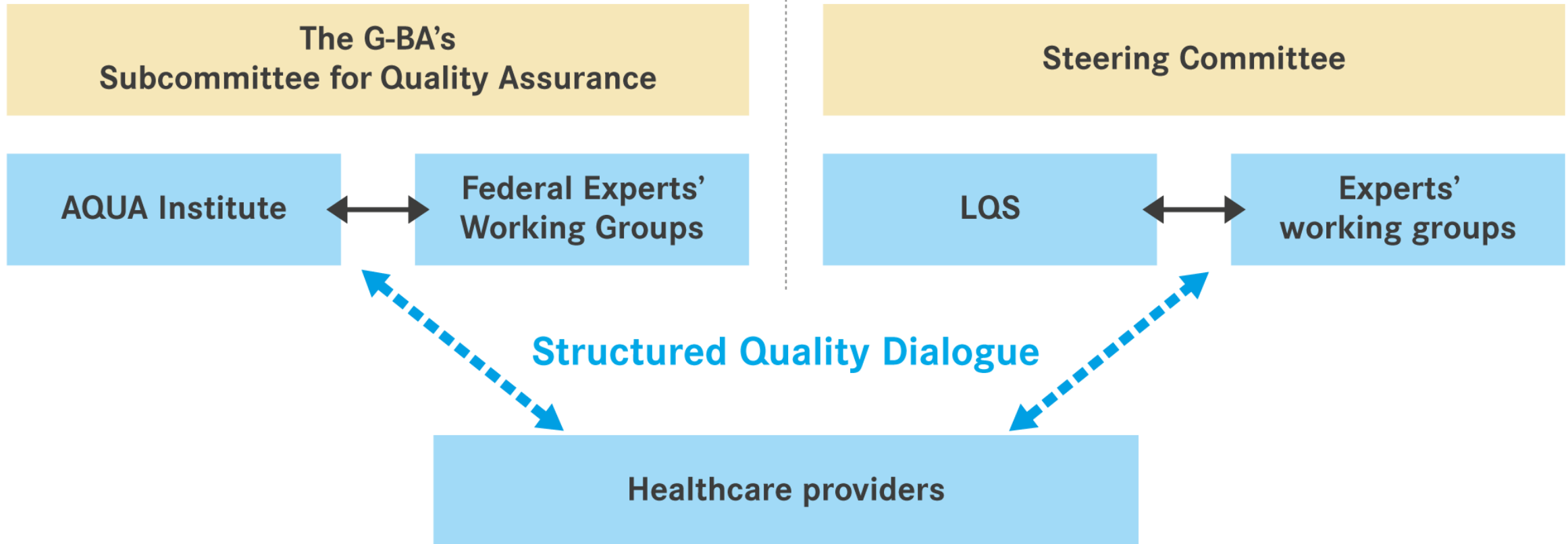
Steering Committee

LQS

Experts'
working groups

Structured Quality Dialogue

Healthcare providers



An example from our nationwide hospital quality monitoring system

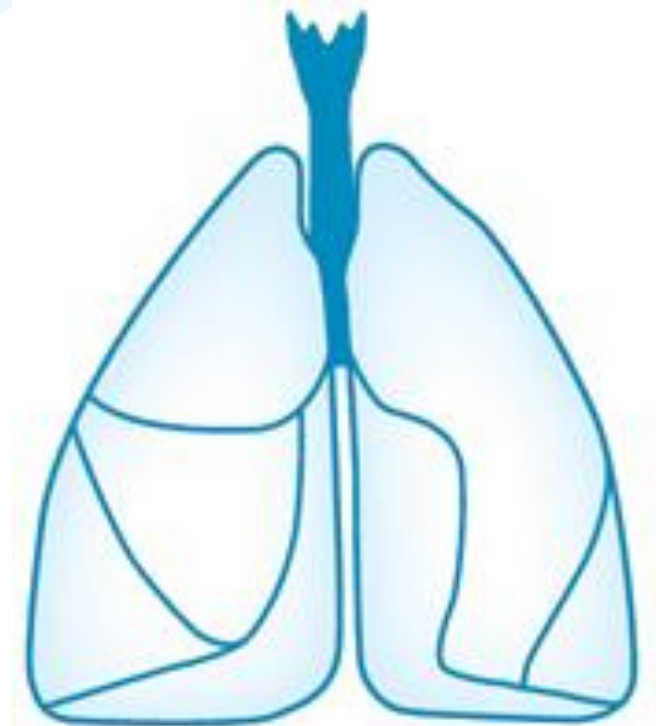
Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP)

Year 2013:

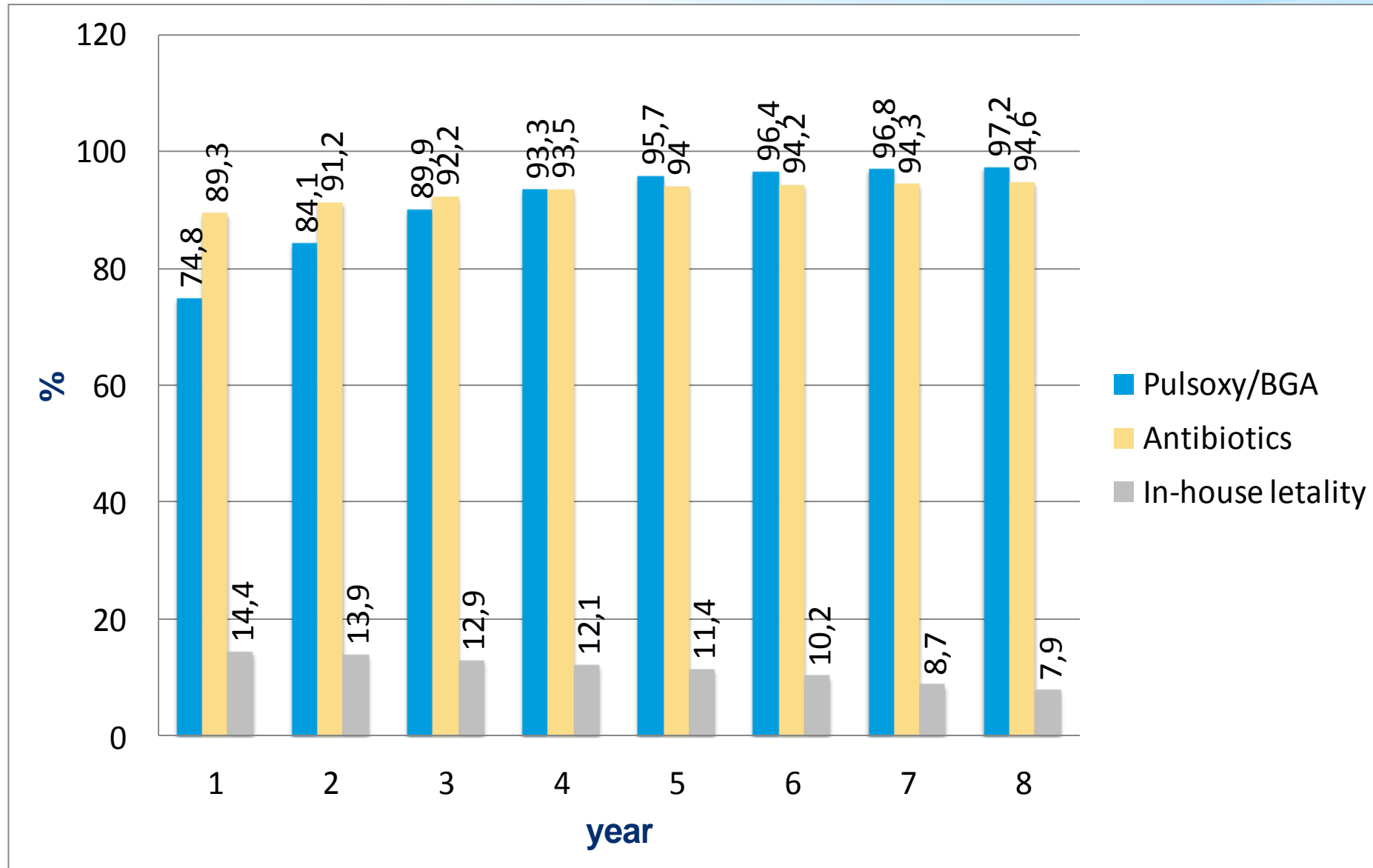
260.661 admissions to 1.257 hospitals

8 quality indicators reported
since 2006

In 2005 evidence-based guideline for CAP
developed by professional organisations
(PEG, DGP, DGI, CAPNETZ, **AWMF**)



Results for pneumonia (CAP) 2006-2013



Statistically saved lives (SSL) in 2013 ~ 12.000

German Hospital Quality Report

Institute for Applied Quality
Improvement and Research
in Health Care GmbH



German Hospital Quality Report 2012

Commissioned by:



www.sgg.de

www.aqua-institut.de

- Appears yearly
- Free download of 2009-2013 reports in German
- 2009-2012 reports in English,
- <http://www.sgg.de/quality-report/index.html>

Overcoming barriers between healthcare sectors

- Performance measurement across healthcare sectors (primary care, secondary outpatient, secondary inpatient, follow-up etc.), worldwide still in it's infancy
- Many quality problems occur at the transition between sectors
- Silos of excellence may exist next door to poor performance, even within the same facility (hospital)
- Programme on developing performance measurement across sectors
- Use of data from different sources (claims data, medical record, information about structures, patient survey, peer review)
- Szecsenyi J et al: Tearing down walls: opening the border between hospital and ambulatory care for quality improvement in Germany. Int J Qual Health Care 2012 Apr;24(2):101-4. Epub 2012 Jan 22

Example from outpatient (ambulatory) care: European Practice Assessment (EPA)

- Comprehensive assessment of the quality of services in outpatient/ambulatory care facilities by validated quality indicators. Originally based on the Dutch „Visitatie“ project (R. Grol, Pieter v.d. Homborgh)
- Including self-assessment, interviews with practice managers and staff, staff satisfaction survey, patient satisfaction survey, audit and team meeting with a trained facilitator
- Benchmarking against other facilities with a comprehensive software
- Controlled study shows substantial improvements, especially in organisation of facilities and patient safety issues

Szecsényi J, Campbell S, Broge B, Laux G, Willms S, Wensing M, Goetz K. Effectiveness of a quality-improvement program in improving management of primary care practices. CMAJ. 2011

Challenges in Germany

- Making routine claims data from all insurers easily available
- Set up of a trust centre for integrating data from different sources into one unique patient identifier
- Stepwise roll-out of patient surveys
- Harmonisation between disease- or procedure-specific registers (i.e. cancer, endoprosthesis, aortic valve etc.etc.) and quality monitoring framework
- Development of composite measures (indices)
- Strengthen culture of improvement in education, training, CME
- Involve all disciplines including nursing
- Set up of a National Institute for Quality and Transparency
 - Transparency list for hospitals, evaluation of accreditation, etc.

Take home messages

- Improvement starts with measurement
- Scientifically sound and valid quality indicators necessary
- Framework for collecting data, use of existing data
- Aim for one „core“ national set of indicators in the healthcare system which can be used on national, regional and provider level
- Build a culture of trust and improvement. Compete for the smartest improvement not for the nicest indicators
- Link activities (guideline development, quality management, accreditation, clinical pathways, pay-for-performance etc.) to your national quality framework and indicators

Please visit our Website www.sqg.de



Cross-sectoral quality
in health care



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TASKS

AQUA INSTITUTE

PARTNERS

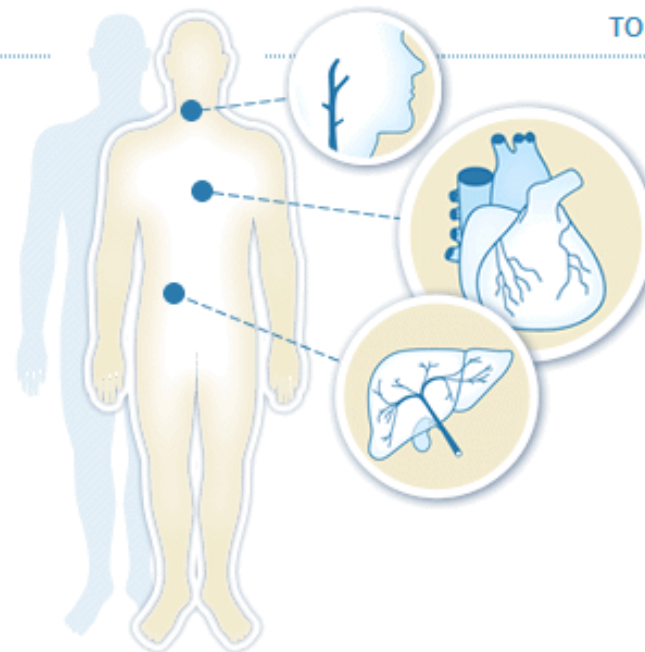
QUALITY REPORT

G-BA

AQUA Institute Project information

Cross-sectoral quality in health care

SQG brings the quality assurance of the inpatient and outpatient sector in Germany together - these have, up until now, been separate. The goal: to meaningfully coordinate the quality requirements of both of these sectors in the future in order to reach a better and more efficient quality of care in the interests of both patients and health care providers. The AQUA Institute undertakes these tasks in accordance with the requirements on § 137a SGB V (German social code book).



TOPICS

INFORMATION

Task within the framework of the
German social code book
(§ 137a SGB V)



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Danke schön!

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ZUKUNFT DURCH QUALITÄT

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