

AEMH Statement on development of clinical guidelines

(adopted unanimously at the 52nd AEMH Plenary Meeting, Verona, September 10, 1999)

Clinical guidelines made by the medical profession and based on medical standards or evidence-based medicine are intended to help physicians in the preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making process. They should be worked out in a defined consensus process within the medical and scientific profession.

The final aim is to work out internationally valid guidelines, which must be based on internationally defined quality criteria.

It is important that senior hospital physicians actively take part in the development of clinical guidelines.

The fear of legal implications that has been discussed, when deviating from medical guidelines, is minimised by a sufficient and high-quality medical documentation-process in each case.

By producing and using these types of guidelines, the medical profession can protect itself and the patients against guidelines of varying quality, which are being distributed by modern communication systems.