



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVNIKOV
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV
EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIHI LIJEČNIKA
ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟCΙΑCΙΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗCΗΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ**

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AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
 ASSOCIATION AUTRICHIENNE DES MEDECINS DES HOSPITAUX
 VERBAND DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE ÖSTERREICHS

As already mentioned before, Medical Doctors (MDs) – except for the group of Dental Practitioners who are members of their own Austrian Dental Chamber – are now represented by the Austrian Medical Chamber (AMC) since 2006.

Current (Feb. 2009) number of MDs (1):

Total number of MDs:	38.346
Self-employed MDs:	15.742 (General Practitioners 6.346, Medical Specialists 9.358)
Employed MDs:	20.793 (General Practitioners 4.974, Medical Specialists 8.907)

MDs (employed) in internship: 6.753

General practitioners: 12.442

Medical Specialists: 18.908

Of 52 medical specialties there are 2 surgical branches which include 293 dental MDs.

Since the federal elections in October 2006, no major healthcare reforms were implemented, although legal changes became necessary due to financial reasons. The total health budget amounts to up to 26-30 billion Euros per year. We might expect savings in the range of 3 billion Euros in the intramural sector by measures of rationalization.

It was a positive change that the health care expenses have been reduced by lowering the VAT on medicaments from 20% to 10%.

The Health care reform was delayed due to early elections in September 2008. Because of the electoral results the former Minister of Health, Dr. Andrea Kdolsky, was dismissed and Alois Stöger – a former unionist – was appointed new Minister of Health in December 2008, after successful management of a balanced budget of the regional division of the Public Health Insurance in Upper Austria/Oberösterreich (i.e. 1 of the 9 federal districts in Austria).

The philosophy of the new minister of health is the comprehension of the complexity of the whole system and the tolerant acceptance of contradictory circumstances. It is important that financing is guaranteed and that there will be confidence in solidarity at the level of the social health insurances. One key point is the early development of intelligent systems of recognizing potentials for health risks in order to support the upholding of health protection. It is the declared intention of the minister to strengthen autonomous management by physicians (2,3).

After having been in office for almost 6 months, discussions about the proposals will be followed by legal decisions of the Austrian parliament.

ELGA (Electronic Health care Record/Elektronische Gesundheitsakte

The Federal Health care commission has decided that the Electronic Health Record is to be introduced by a foundation company.

Service applications, such as electronic discharge information, laboratory and radiological results will be added to the basic structure containing patient data and offered healthcare. Furthermore, the realization of e-medication with due consideration of patient safety will be pushed forward.

Again, participants involved as physicians, social insurance systems and federal districts as holders of hospitals have agreed on principle.

Being the main users, the physicians are involved in all fields. The project should be implemented by the end of 2009 at the latest (project of e-medication until the end of 2010).

E-Card (electronic patient card)

In the extramural area the E-card is well established and has become an indispensable tool. An increasing use among intramural areas/hospitals can be registered and software adaptations with the hospital information system are available, e.g. „e-card CheckIn form“ from T-Systems.

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References:

- (1) Information from Austrian Medical Chamber
- (2) Österreichische Ärztezeitung 1/2 (2009) p.12
- (3) ÖKZ 50, 1-2 (2009) p.8