Postgraduate and continuing medical education in Switzerland

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Overview

• Greetings from the Swiss Medical Association (short)

• Postgraduate training in Switzerland (moderately short)

• Continuing medical education in Switzerland (very short)

• Osler (surprisingly short)
Medical Education Switzerland

• Pregraduate Training
  • 5 Universities
  • Curriculum
    • 3 years Bachelor level
    • 3 years Master level > Federal Exam
      (allows entrance to postgraduate training)

• Postgraduate Training

• Continuing Medical Education (CME/CPD)
Medical schools: diplomas in 2012
(All six medical schools are public)

Duration: 6 years

Full medical school
Pre-clinical studies only
Swiss Federal Law on Medical Professions (MedBG)

• Governs the fundamental principles of basic, specialty and continuing medical training and the practicing of medical professions
  • 43 Swiss specialist titles; duration
  • Objectives of specialist training
  • Procedural issues

• Accreditation: «suitable organization»
  • ONE organization = FMH → SIME
  • Outsourcing of responsibility for execution and financing
  • Supervision and control in the hands of the Confederation
Split up of FMH (2009)
(FMH = Foederatio Medicorum Helveticorum)

ÄG Glarus 1994

SIME: «Clean education»

FMH: «Politics and money»
FMH and SIME

Medical Chamber

Control Commission

**SIME**
Medical education
- Postgraduate training
- Continuing education (life-long)

**FMH «union»**
Professional politics
- Compensation
- Quality
- Demography
- Prevention
Organizational structure of SIME

Management (n=5)
President, 3 vice-presidents, executive director

SIME Committee (n=19)
Delegates representing major societies, universities, the government, etc.; guests
Decides on the majority of matters

Plenary (n=56)
Delegates representing all medical specialty societies, government, etc.; guests
Right of referendum, minority of direct decisions
Tasks of SIME: bestow titles

44 specialist titles + (general practitioner)
e.g. general internist/surgeon/forensic medicine

34 sub-specialties

e.g. ophthalmic surgery/neonatology/pediatric radiology

31 proficiency certificates

e.g. acupuncture/homeopathy/manual medicine/sports medicine
EU Convention on the Free Movement of Persons

Bilateral contracts ➔ Free Movement of Persons

• Domestic treatment of EU citizens in Switzerland and of Swiss citizens in the EU
• Reciprocal recognition of diplomas
• EU Guideline 2005/36
Legal bases

Medical Professions Act and orders

SIME Specialist Training Regulations

45 Postgraduate training programmes (SIME / specialised associations)
Postgraduate training programmes

• Govern the detailed conditions for obtaining one of the 43 postgraduate titles:
  • Duration of specific postgraduate training (3-6 y)
  • eventually non-specific postgraduate training
  • Change of training centers
  • Research
  • Logbook
  • Content of study material

• Govern all the criteria for the recognition of postgraduate-training centers
Instruments for measuring quality of medical specialist training:

• Accreditation every seventh year (last time in 2011)
  Were goals of the law attained (conditions/recommendations)?

• Formative evaluation:
  • (e-)Logbook
  • Workplace-based assessments (Mini-CEX, DOPS)

• Summative evaluation:
  • Medical specialist examination

• On-site visits (100/y, specialty expert, independent, trainee)

• Annual survey among assistant physicians (67% return)
Titles granted 1997 - 2012
Responsibilities of SIME

1. Enact and revise Specialist Training Regulations
2. Revise/update/implement specialist training programs (medical specialist titles, sub-specialties, proficiency certificates)

10'000 Assistant physicians
1'500 Title applications/y
1'000 Inquiries from foreign physicians
1'500 Specialist training facilities (hospitals/clinics)
1'000 Physician practices with teaching function
100 Visitations/y
300 Office holders/commission members
Competences of SIME

• SIME is the organ of the FMH competent for the medical postgraduate training and continuing education

• Specialist training regulations:
  • Creation and annulment*
  • Revisions
  • Deciding on questions of interpretation of training regulations
  • Electing delegates representing SIME in:
    • Titles Commission (TK)
    • Postgraduate Training Centers Commission (WBK)
    • Commission for Objections concerning TK/WBK decisions

* Subject to the powers of the Medical Chamber and Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
Requirements: The example of surgery

- Total duration 6 years
- At least 4 years of surgery (2 years in a university or A years)
- Maximum of 2 years of special surgical disciplines
- Maximum of 2 years of scientific activities
- Logbook (defined interventions)
Training Program in General Internal Medicine

• Corresponds to a merger of two former training programs: General Medicine and Internal Medicine.

• Allows training based largely on individual choice across the entire spectrum, from family practitioner in a remote and isolated location in the Swiss Alps to internist at a university hospital.

• Part of the program (first 2 to 3 years) compulsory for training in former sub-specialties of internal medicine (cardiology, pulmonology, oncology, gastroenterology, nephrology, etc.) – but most sub-specialists still have completed the entire range of training in internal medicine.
# Training Program in General Internal Medicine

### Basisweiterbildung:
- 3 Jahre AIM
- mind. 2 Jahre stationäre AIM (Kategorie A – D; inkl. 3 Monate Notfallstation)
- mind. 6 Monate ambulante AIM (Kategorie I – IV)
- mind. 1 Jahr Kategorie A oder I

### Aufbauweiterbildung:
- neben AIM stehen 31 Fachgebiete zur Auswahl gemäß Liste in Ziffer 2.3 des WBP
- die als Beispiele aufgeführten Fachgebiete illustrieren die Vielzahl der Möglichkeiten
- Perioden: in der Regel 6 bis 12 Monate

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<tr>
<td>Hausarzt</td>
<td>Beispiel 1</td>
<td>Stationäre AIM Kat. A – D</td>
<td>Praxisassistenz Kat. III (2x6 oder 1x12 Monate)</td>
<td>Chirurgie und/oder Orthopädie/Traumat.</td>
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Continuing medical education

• MedBG 2007: continuing medical education (CME) is a professional obligation under the law.

• CME regulations:
  • 80 credits (≈ hours) per year
    • 30 self-study (not checked)
    • 25 specific CME (defined by specialist society)
    • 25 general CME
  • → CME programs for all medical specialist titles
  • CME certificate for FMH members
Self-study
30 Credits
- Proof not required
- Automatically credited

General Continuing Education
25 Credits
- Proof required
- Additional continuing education as a specialist
- Non-specialist continuing education recognized by
  - another specialist society
  - a cantonal medical society
  - Swiss Institute for Medical Education/Swiss Medical Association
  - ASA, VAOS, SVHA, SANTH or SMPG in the field of complementary medicine

Specific Continuing Education
25 Credits
- Proof required
- Defined and structured according to the specialty-specific continuing education program of a specialist society (specialist title)
Sir William Osler (I):

• Beware of words – they are dangerous things. They change colour like the chameleon, and they return like a boomerang.

• Believe nothing that you see in the newspapers – they have done more to create dissatisfaction than all other agencies. If you see anything in them that you know is true, begin to doubt it at once.

• Medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability.
Sir William Osler (II):

... and a touch of «Arbeitsmedizin»:

- It is always valuable to note the occupation of a patient. It may point to the diagnosis of the disease. The fact that a man with anomalous symptoms and a cutaneous eruption is a *wool sorter* may give the diagnosis of anthrax. Glanders is associated with *workers in stables* ... When a man with extreme pallor says he is a *painter*, this fact at once points to lead poisoning as the cause. The same with *taylors* as there is lead in the thread they use.