

LMHI Annual Report HOMŒOPATHY IN SWITZERLAND 2011



OF GENERAL INTEREST

Homœopathy back in the Compulsory Basic Health Insurance:

On 12th January 2011, we got the important message: homœopathy and the other four medical CAM-therapies (anthroposophical medicine, neuraltherapy, phytotherapy and chinese herbal therapy) will be reimbursed by the Compulsory Basic Health Insurance by 2012!

This decision was taken by the Health Minister, Didier Burkhalter. We expected his decision in eager anticipation after the ELGK (Eidgenössische Leistungs- und Grundlagen-Kommission), the commission to evaluate the requests and to make proposals to the Ministry of Health about the admission of new methods to the compulsory basic health insurance, had published that all five medical CAM-therapies would not fulfill the demands for evidence of the efficacy, the suitability and the economic viability. As a reason for his decision, the Minister of Health mentioned the vote in 2009 about CAM which was accepted by 67% of the Swiss population.

But once more: The readmission is limited for 6 years. We are expected to fill up the gaps in our requests that were submitted in 2010. Within the following six years each medical CAM organisation is obliged to present a study of the cost-effectiveness of its method. Furthermore, the Federal Department of Home Affairs itself is looking for another Health Technology Assessment concerning the efficacy of the five licensed CAM therapies; our medical CAM organisation UNION of course tries to have some influence on the choice of this evaluating institute. Although there is a group consisting of three members of the Federal Office of Public Health and three members of CAM organisations accompanying these processes, there are still many controversial and unresolved issues. For example, we still don't know the exact criteria of assessment that will be applied on our studies!

Despite some rumours the income of Swiss doctors practising homœopathy is guaranteed and will not be much less than in times of private insurances. At the very moment, we try to abolish limitations concerning homœopathy (unlimited time for case taking and repertorisation).

The big advantage about the reimbursement by the Compulsory Basic Health Insurance is of course that every citizen has access to homœopathic treatment; this makes us proud of our political success!

Homœopathic pharmacists go their own way

The organisation of homœopathic pharmacists SAGH/OSPH is now in charge of the diploma for homœopathy for pharmacists. But basic and continued trainings in homœopathy are still mostly together with medical doctors. New modalities about the exams and the common work between the organisation of the pharmacists and our medical organization have still to be discussed as several pharmacists would like to remain in the medical organisation SVHA/SSMH/SSMO as they have been members for many years.

Attracting students for homœopathy

During the next years, we have to pay a lot of attention to the theme of attracting new students. Every year, there are a few young doctors passing their exam in homœopathy. Until they get the Certificate of Capacity in homœopathy it seems for many of them a difficult way where they need personal support. We made the experience that the best time for the basic training in homœopathy is actually during the medical studies.

Since one year we have been asked to run a workshop at the Swiss Medical Student Convention; they have a congress each semester. The topics of the last two congresses were: "Homœopathy for family doctors – a valuable enrichment!" and "Homœopathy in paediatrics".

Barbara Bichsel-Altherr 1.11.11 22:03

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Contact with “Hausärzte Schweiz/Médecin de Famille/Swiss Family Docs”

In 2010 during the WONCA-Congress in Switzerland, the organisation called “Hausärzte Schweiz/Médecin de Famille” was founded. This organisation unites all practitioners working in primary care (general practitioners, paediatricians, internists). From our organisation we have always tried to get in closer contact with this new organisation many of our members also belong to. This spring, some of our board had a first meeting with its board members. Fortunately, we also have some representatives from our organisation in its assembly. Moreover, we applied again for a workshop on homœopathy during the next annual congress of the Swiss Family Docs.

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