Projects

Published Guidelines

- Gastric Cancer
- Breast Cancer (Update 2012)
- Prostate Cancer (Update 2011)

Guidelines in progress

Expected Publication in 2012

- Pancreatic cancer (Update 2012)
- Colorectal Carcinoma (Update 2012)
- Oral Cavity Carcinoma
- Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Ovarian Cancer

Expected Publication in 2013

- Cervix Carcinoma
- Cervix Carcinoma prevention
- Esophageal Carcinoma
- Renalcell Carcinoma
- Psychooncology
- Supportive Care
- Palliative Medicine
- Skin Cancer Prevention

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Background

The rationale for the establishment of a national program for guidelines in oncology in Germany is the perceived need for quality improvement in cancer care by better knowledge management and for a common basis to improve networking of different quality initiatives. Concordantly, the German National Cancer Plan launched under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Health, the German Cancer Society and German Society of Clinical Cancer Registries includes the goal to develop and implement high quality clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) in oncology. Therefore, the Association of the Scientific Medical Societies in Germany (AWMF), the German Cancer Society (DKG) and the German Cancer Aid (DKH) jointly initiated the German Guideline Program in Oncology in 2008.

Objectives

- to support CPG development by scientific medical societies
- to provide independent funding
- to improve methodological quality of CPGs
- to improve implementation and evaluation by
  - patient guidelines
  - user specific CPG versions
  - performance measure / quality indicators
- to consolidate the network of quality initiatives existing in Germany i.e. guideline development groups, cancer registries, cancer centers and Quality Assurance within the framework of the German Social Code Book.

Methodology and specific aspects

Methodological support for the Guideline Development groups is warranted by the GGPO. Key elements of the guideline development process are
- stake holder and patient involvement
- editorial independence
- systematic search, selection and appraisal of the evidence
- formal consensus process (nominal group technique, Delphi process, structured consensus conference)

Standardized processes have been established for the development, implementation and update of performance measures and quality indicators based on guideline recommendations and involving representatives of the relevant institutions and organizations engaged in quality assurance. Patient guidelines (lay versions of CPG) and other user specific CPG formats like long and short versions, reports on methodology, evidence reports / tables, mobile websites are provided to complement the guidelines.