

Media release from the Dachverband Komplementärmedizin (Dakomed) and the Union of Associations of Swiss Physicians for Complementary Medicine (UNION) dated 2 May 2014

Status of medical complementary medicine no longer in doubt

Berne, 02.05.2014. Dakomed and the UNION welcome the proposal from the Swiss Federal Department of Home Internal Affairs (FDHA) on the final inclusion of medical complementary medicine in the OKP [compulsory healthcare insurance] as a result of its equal status with other disciplines. Definitive payment through the basic insurance is long overdue. Dakomed and the UNION would now like to see a speedy implementation of the changes announced to the KLV [Healthcare Benefits Ordinance] and the KVV [Health Insurance Ordinance]. We expect all the parties concerned to lend their positive support to the process.

Five years ago, on 17 May 2009, a two-thirds majority of eligible voters approved the constitutional Article 118a to include medical complementary medicine in the Swiss healthcare system. Recent surveys have also clearly shown that complementary medicine is supported and desired by a majority of the population. One of the central demands is that the four medical disciplines of anthroposophically extended medicine, classic homeopathy, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) should be paid for through the basic health insurance if these disciplines are provided by medical professionals who have received appropriate additional training. (This does not affect services rendered by non-medical therapists. The costs of these services will continue to be met through the corresponding supplementary insurances.)

The evaluation of all the evidence developed over the past 13 years allows us to conclude that the effectiveness, appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of medical complementary medicine has today proven to be comparable with that of conventional medicine. The quality assurance is guaranteed by the high standards demanded of the specialist education and training: the full state exam, a minimum five-year specialist medical residency as well as additional training in at least one of the four complementary medical disciplines are a prerequisite for the certificates of competence recognised by the FMH. There are consequently no further obstacles to medical complementary medicine finally being included in the OKP.

Should you have any questions please contact:

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