

Speciality training

There is a system of double specialists in Germany. This means that there are outpatient specialities provided by independent doctors in their offices, and in-house specialities provided by doctors in hospitals. The medical care centres (MVZ in German) play here a hybrid role. Many independent doctors can have become part of a facility which is similar to an outpatient centre. It is therefore possible that the administrators of medical insurance companies buy up quotas from insurance companies in order to place their hired doctors in these MVZ and, therefore, be part in the outpatient care. In more than 95% of the cases, the speciality training takes place at the hospitals. A doctor must apply for a training authorisation in order to be allowed to train younger doctors. This authorisation is dependant on the quality and the scope of the medical work in his or her unit. All doctors who have received a training authorisation can be found in data bases of the respective medical colleges web pages.

After completing his or her speciality training, the specialist can treat patients independently. This is a prerequisite to work as a senior physician, senior doctor, head physician, or independent specialist. According to EU provisions, this further training normally takes 5 years, and it is recognised in all Europe. In each German state, there are specific rules regarding this further training, which vary slightly from state to state. During the time in which the assistant doctors do their speciality training, they do a presence service, which is complemented by a senior doctor or head physician on call. This safeguard guarantees that the standard of the speciality is met.