

Collaboration with the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care

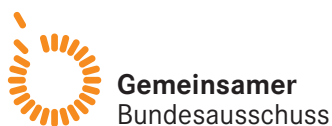
In 2004, the G-BA established the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG/www.iqwig.de) as an independent scientific unit according to a recent law. On behalf of the G-BA, the IQWiG assesses effectiveness, quality and efficiency of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies as well as pharmaceuticals. The IQWiG follows the principles of evidence-based medicine in its appraisal process.



Even though the IQWiG and the G-BA are two independently and separately working organisations, IQWiG's technology appraisals are an important decision-aid to the G-BA and they have to be considered in the G-BA's directives. However, they do not determine the final decision of the G-BA.

Thus, the IQWiG and its expertise support the decision-making process of the G-BA and therefore the respective legal mandate.

Furthermore, the IQWiG publishes patient information in an easy-to-understand format.



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The Federal Joint Committee – About Us

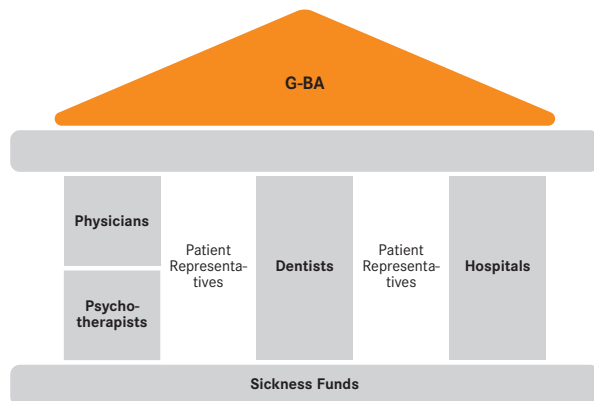


The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) is the supreme decision-making body of the so-called self-governing system in Germany. Physicians, dentists, hospitals, sickness funds and patients are represented in the G-BA. The G-BA issues directives and thus determines the benefit package of the statutory health insurance (GKV) covering about 70 million people. Finally, the G-BA is responsible for reimbursement decisions in the GKV.

Legal foundation and supervision

The G-BA was established on January 1st, 2004 as mandated by a federal health reform law (GKV Modernisation Act – GMG). It incorporated and standardised the former separately working committees for ambulatory, dental and hospital care.

The work of the G-BA is under the legal review of the Federal Ministry of health, but it is not a subordinate authority. Legal basis of the G-BA is the Social Code Book V (SGB V).



Composition

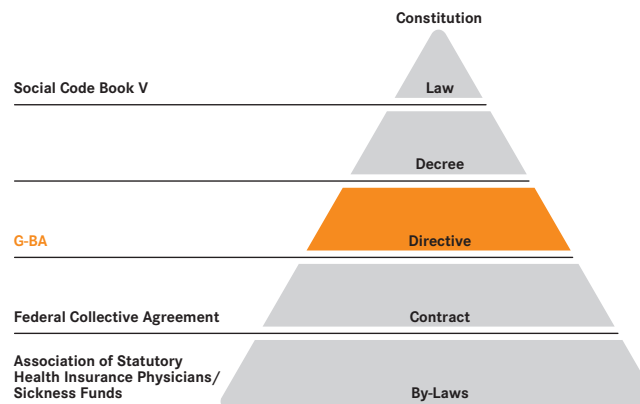
Tasks and responsibilities

The German parliament sets the legal framework for health care provision in Germany. The mandate of the G-BA is to issue standardised and binding directives in order to translate the legal framework into practice. Therefore, the G-BA is called “little legislator”. It has a legal mandate set by the German parliament.

The directives issued by the G-BA are legally binding for insured persons as well as for the providers and payers of health care: physicians, hospitals and sickness funds. They are valid for ambulatory treatment, dentistry, hospital care and psychotherapy. Furthermore, the directives define the provision and reimbursement of pharmaceuticals, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, medical devices and non-medical treatment. In addition, the G-BA has important responsibilities regarding quality assurance measures for in- and out-patient care.

Balanced decision-making according to topical developments

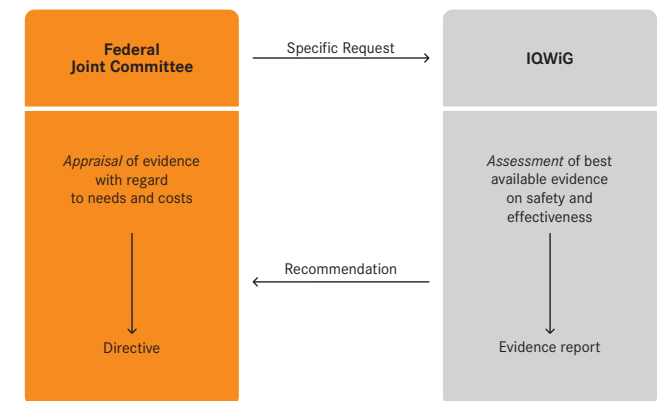
The G-BA’s decision-making process is informed by the most recent scientific evidence concerning the appraisal of effectiveness, benefit, necessity and efficiency of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures within the benefit package of the GKV.



Legal status

Composition

The G-BA has 13 members. In addition to the impartial chairman and two other impartial members, the sickness funds and the health care providers (physicians, dentists, psychotherapists, hospitals) are represented by five members each. Five patient's representatives take part in the monthly meetings of the G-BA. They are named by organisations which illustrate the complexity of the patient's organisations and self-help groups. Patient representatives have the right to file applications but they cannot vote. All together, more than one hundred patient representatives are active in the G-BA.



Collaboration with the IQWiG