



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

TRANSFORMING THE WHA RESOLUTION IN A MEMBER STATE: DEVELOPING A GERMAN PROGRAM ON "DESTIGMATIZATION" FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH VISIBLE CHRONIC SKIN DISEASES

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Introduction: The WHA resolution 2014 raised fundamental demands for the health care system to increase the awareness for patients with skin diseases, including its fight against stigmatization. Single member states were encouraged to take action, including public awareness campaigns.

The German ministry of health approved a project submitted by German dermatologists, patient-groups and scientific experts to develop interventions against stigmatization for a period of three years.

Objective: To develop and evaluate interventions against stigmatization of people with skin diseases.

Material and Methods: The project consist of three phases. Within a one year period current research will be processed through systematic literature searches; recommendations for intervention formats will be derived (phase I). The consecutive 18 months involve the development and testing of defined intervention formats (phase II). The interventions are supposed to focus on locations of stigma and encounters of stigmatizing with stigmatized persons. After evaluation a long-term implementation is aimed for (phase III).

Results: Systematic literature reviews on measurements of stigmatization and interventions





have been conducted. Results imply that people with visible skin disease are affected by stigmatization in several dimensions and strategies for reducing the stigma are required, but only very few scientifically evaluated interventions are available that could be transferred to the German population. Different levels of the stigmatization process are considered as important aspects and will be accounted for in the interventions.

Conclusions: Following the WHA resolution, this project is an example for successful project initiation of an interdisciplinary team to develop and implement interventions against stigmatization. The interventions to be developed will address medical students and teachers. After evaluation they are supposed to be adapted for other groups such as journalists. The interventions will be finalized by the end of the year, in order to apply them to their target groups in the beginning of 2019.

