

IQWiG timeline 2003 to 2009 (status 12/09)

The Institute's most important developments at a glance:

2003

January

In the course of the Health Care Reform, the Federal Minister for Health, Ulla Schmidt, aims to establish a state-orientated Centre for Quality in Medicine.

July

The self-government of the health care system proposes an alternative model: an Institute for Quality is to be affiliated to the self-government; the Ministry of Health is only to have legal supervision.

October

After the German Parliament (Bundestag), the Federal Council (Bundesrat) also passes the draft of the Statutory Health Insurance (SHI) Modernization Act, which, among other things, envisages the establishment of an Institute for Quality with the self-government as responsible body.

2004

January

On 1 January 2004, most sections of the SHI Modernization Act become effective.

June

On 18 June, the basis for the new Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care is created by the establishment of the Foundation for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care. Professor Dr. med. Peter T. Sawicki is appointed as the Institute's Director on 1 September.

October

The Institute starts work with a total of 11 employees.

November

IQWiG moves into its own premises in Cologne-Kalk.

The first draft of the IQWiG methods version 1.0 is presented for discussion.

IQWiG receives its first commissions from the Federal Joint Committee (Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss).

At the request of the Federal Joint Committee the Institute prepares its first consumer health information on the cholesterol-lowering drug Sortis and the painkiller Vioxx.

December

The Federal Joint Committee awards a "general commission" to the Institute. With this commission, IQWiG can also select and work on relevant topics on its own initiative.

2005

February

Official opening ceremony of the Institute on 24 February 2005.

March

The final version of the methods version 1.0 is published.



IQWiG presents its first preliminary report (Rapid-acting insulin analogues in diabetes type 2).

The German Association of Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies and IQWiG regulate the confidential handling of manufacturer data.

September



The Institute presents its first comprehensive benefit assessment in the form of a working paper (Statins [with particular consideration of atorvastatin]).

The first oral debate on a preliminary report (Rapid-acting insulin analogues in diabetes type 2) takes place on 8 September.

The results of a survey are published on an international comparison of the quality of health care, conducted by the Commonwealth Fund (CWF) and IQWiG.

IQWiG organizes its first Autumn Symposium.

December



IQWiG presents its first final reports to the Federal Joint Committee. The topics of the reports are "Minimum volumes for total knee joint endoprosthesis" and "Rapid-acting insulin analogues in diabetes type 2".

2006



February



The Institute goes online with its own website for consumer health information (www.gesundheitsinformation.de).

March



IQWiG's Scientific Advisory Board comments on the current discussion on rapid-acting insulin analogues and calls for more objectivity in the debate.

April



IQWiG starts its regular exchange of experiences with the British National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the French Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS).

Gesundheitsinformation.de is now also available in English (www.informedhealthonline.org).

July



The Federal Joint Committee makes its first decision on a directive on the basis of an IQWiG report (Rapid-acting insulin analogues in diabetes type 2).

October



IQWiG receives its first commission from the Federal Ministry of Health on the topic of endometriosis.

The Foundation's Board of Directors decides that the seat of the Institute will remain in Cologne. This decision is confirmed by the plenum of the Federal Joint Committee in December.

November



Second IQWiG Autumn Symposium.

September

The Institute's website for consumer health information (informedhealthonline.org) is evaluated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in September and October.

October

The Institute publishes a revised version (version 1.1) of the methods for cost-benefit assessment and supplements the draft with three technical appendices on modelling, cost estimation, and uncertainty.

Second workshop by the Health Research Council and IQWiG ("Transferability of study results in health care").

November

In a verdict of first instance, the Social Court in Berlin confirms the Federal Joint Committee's decision on a directive referring to rapid-acting insulin analogues in diabetes type 2 and confirms that IQWiG has satisfied all requirements for scientific diligence and formal accuracy.

Fourth IQWiG Autumn Symposium (28/29 November).

2009

March

The second draft (version 2.0) of the methods for cost-benefit assessment is published.

April

The Institute appoints the management consultancy firm, prognos, to carry out an evaluation of its structure and procedures.

May

The Federal Joint Committee decides that inpatient treatment for severe aplastic anaemia with allogenic stem cell transplantation from non-related donors should continue to be covered by the Statutory Health Insurance Funds (GKV). This decision is based in part on a recommendation by IQWiG.

June

IQWiG approaches the media because a manufacturer of an antidepressant knowingly conceals large amounts of data that are necessary for working on a commission. As a result of public discussion in the media, the manufacturer divulges the data.

The second event in the series "IQWiG in dialogue" takes place in Cologne. The topic for 2009 is "Assessing benefit without considering harm?"

The results of dry runs for the cost-benefit assessment of drugs are presented at an IQWiG event in Berlin. A heated debate ensues.

July

The Federal Joint Committee expands its code of procedure so that the relation between cost and benefit of drugs can also be assessed in future.

August

For the first time, the Federal Joint Committee commissions the Institute to carry out an update search on a commission already completed (cholinesterase inhibitors).

September

The commission package on Alzheimer's disease is completed with the publication of the final report on memantine.

The Federal Joint Committee decides that hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO) for the inpatient treatment of burns and idiopathic osteonecrosis of the femoral head will in future no longer be reimbursed by the Statutory Health Insurance Funds. This decision is based in part on a recommendation by IQWiG.

October

The “General Methods on assessing the relation between benefit and cost”, version 1.0, are published.

November

Fifth IQWiG Autumn Symposium (27/28 November).

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