



IQWiG Reports – Commission No. E17-08

# **Pulsed electromagnetic fields for bone healing disorders<sup>1</sup>**

## **Extract**

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<sup>1</sup> Translation of the executive summary of the assessment of potential *Pulsierende elektromagnetische Felder bei Knochenheilungsstörungen* (Version 1.0; Status: 29 January 2018). Please note: This translation is provided as a service by IQWiG to English-language readers. However, solely the German original text is absolutely authoritative and legally binding.

# Publishing details

**Publisher:**

Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care

**Topic:**

Pulsed electromagnetic fields for bone healing disorders

**Commissioning agency:**

Federal Joint Committee

**Commission awarded on:**

12 December 2017

**Internal Commission No.:**

E17-08

**Address of publisher:**

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**Keywords:** Electric Stimulation Therapy, Fractures – Ununited, Fracture Healing, Assessment of Potential

**Executive summary**

In accordance with §137e of the German Social Code Book (SGB) V – statutory health insurance, the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) commissioned the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) to assess the potential of the pulsed electromagnetic fields (PEMF) method for bone healing disorders. The application was transferred to IQWiG on 12 December 2017.

According to the applicant, the PEMF method is used for the treatment of bone healing disorders of long tubular bones.

Four randomized controlled trials (RCTs) were primarily used for the assessment of PEMF; these studies included results on the outcomes “fracture healing”, “pain on exertion”, “pressure pain” and “refractures”. The overall review of the studies indicates positive effects of the PEMF method regarding the outcome “fracture healing”.

On the basis of the application documents submitted, a potential of a required treatment alternative can be inferred for the PEMF method in patients with bone healing disorders of long tubular bones, which is based on the available findings on the outcome “fracture healing”.

A testing study that is suited to obtain the necessary information for the assessment of the method’s benefit is basically possible.

*The full report (German version) is published under*

<https://www.iqwig.de/en/projects-results/projects/non-drug-interventions/e17-08-pulsed-electromagnetic-fields-for-bone-healing-disorders.12659.html>.