

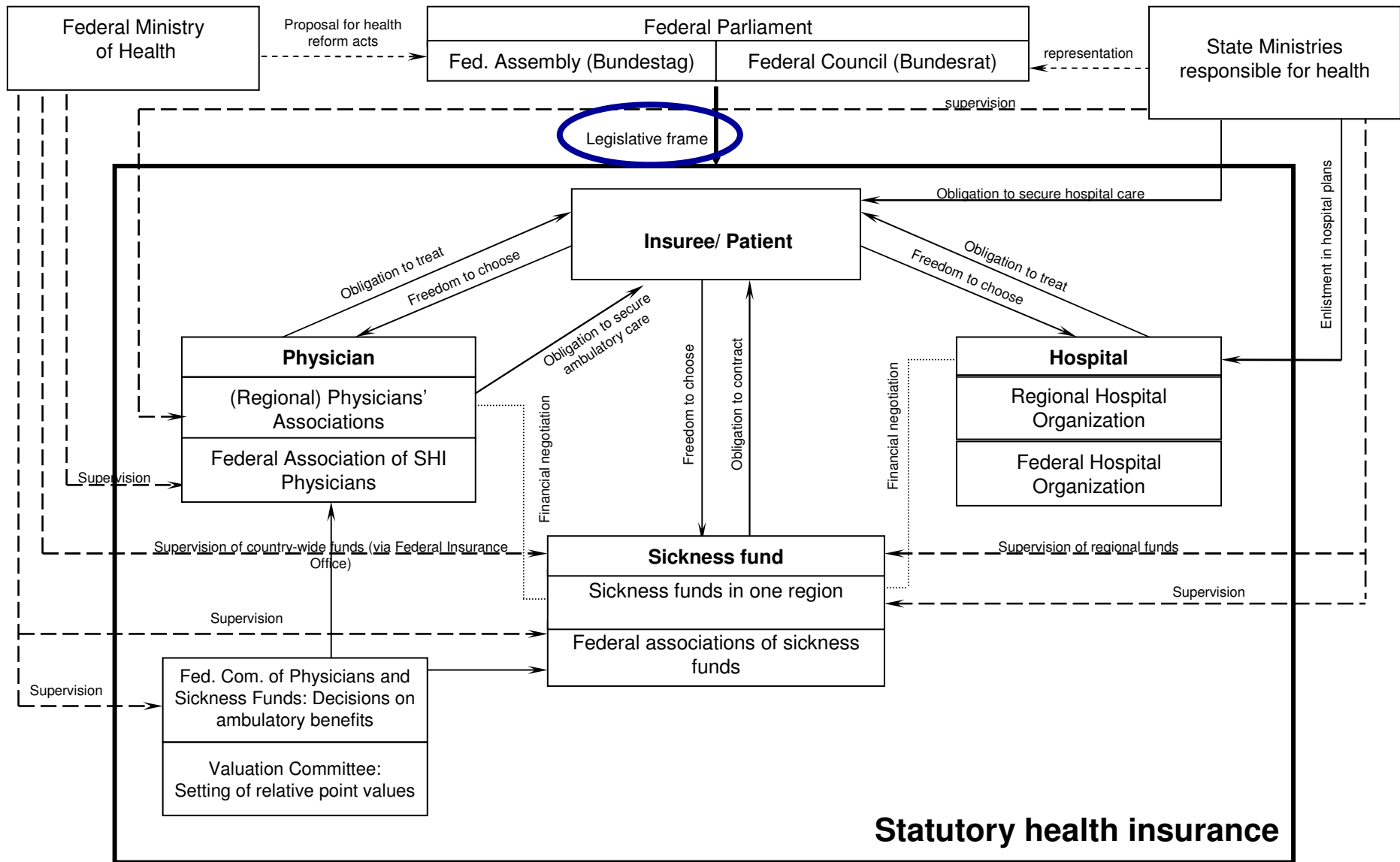
German health care reform – a vademecum for confused outsiders

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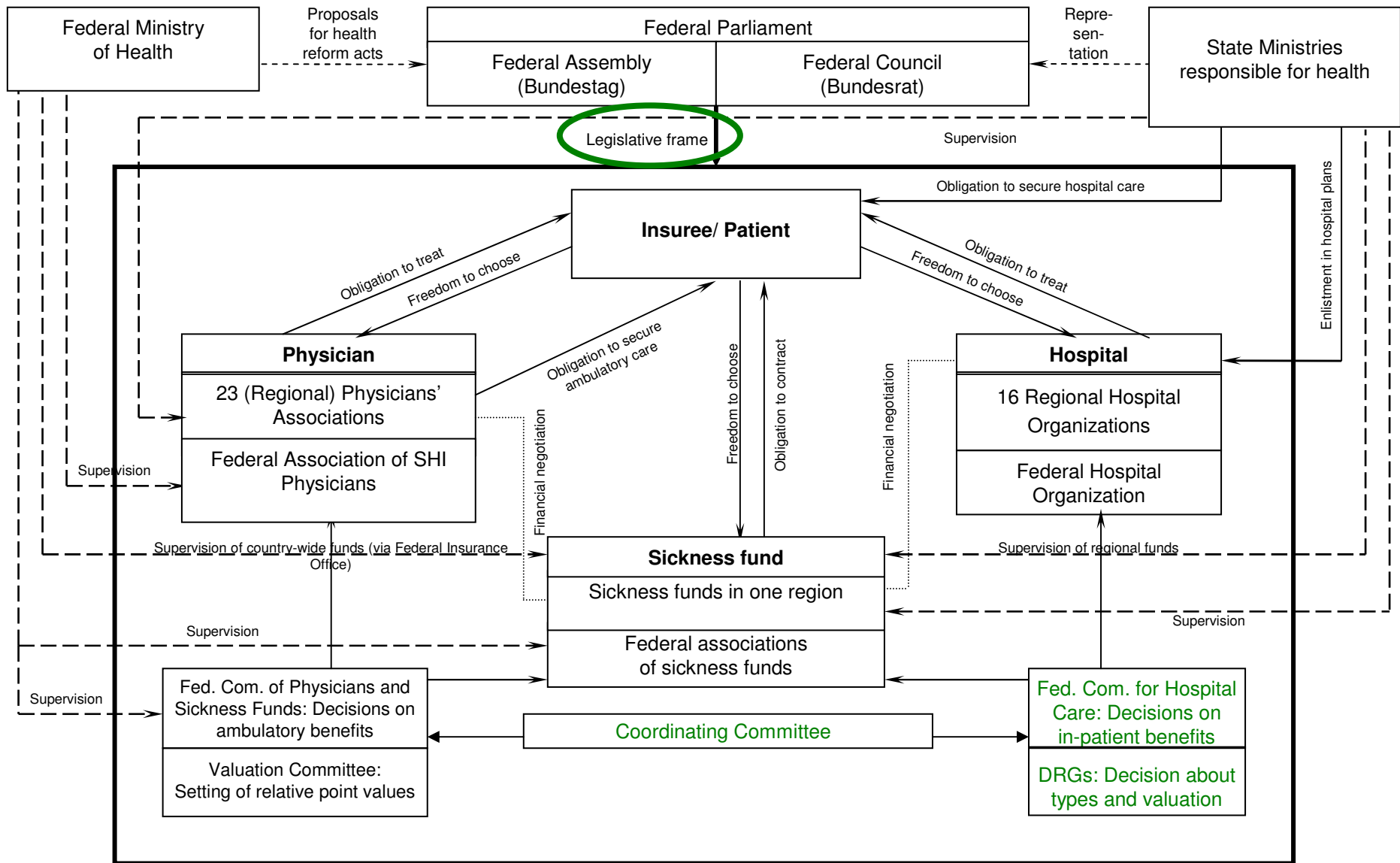
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Reform act	Year passed
Health Care Reform Act 1989 ("First step")	1988
Health Care Structure Act 1993 ("Second step")	1992
Health Insurance Contribution Rate Exoneration Act	1996
1 st & 2 nd Statutory Health Insurance Restructuring Act ("Third step")	1997
Act to Strengthen Solidarity in Statutory Health Insurance	1998
Reform Act of Statutory Health Insurance 2000	1999



Reform acts = modification of rules for self-governing actors



Best example: extension to hospital sector from 2000

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act to Newly Regulate Choice of Sickness Fund• Act to Introduce the Residency Principle for Physicians' and Dentists' Reimbursement• Act to Reform the SHI Risk Adjustment Mechanism• Act to Adjust Reference Price-Setting Regulations• Pharmaceutical Spending Cap Lifting Act	2001 Health care Reform a la Ulla Schmidt
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act to Limit SHI Pharmaceutical Spending• Act to Introduce a Case Fees-System in Hospitals	2002

Pharmaceuticals

- spending cap lifted
- pharmaceutical expenditure sharply up
- new act limits prices, increases discount for sickness funds, introduces “Aut-idem“
- hotly debated: Contribution of pharmaceutical industry to avoid price cuts
- reference price setting to be done by MoH, rather than sickness funds in 2003/04

Risk structure compensation/ disease management programmes

- idea of minimum contribution rate dropped
- after changing sickness fund, new minimum membership duration of 18 months
- RSC to include high-risk pool and new categories for enrollees in DMP (incentives?)
- Coordinating Committee proposes diseases (first two: diabetes, breast cancer), criteria for enrolment and minimum standards

Risk structure compensation/ disease management programmes

- MoH passes ordinance based on these proposals (the first with >100 scientific citations)
- Federal Insurance Office accredits programmes offered by sickness funds

Up to now rapid development but total mix of actors' roles!

Main dispute: who should get which data

DRG introduction

- [details presented in separate presentation]
- even more confusing a ping-pong between law-makers (introduction of DRG system), delegation of details to self-government and new law regulating what self-government had proposed (plus possibly some issues on which no agreement could be achieved)

In conclusion: Two main tendencies

1. Confusing, partly contradictory policy
 2. Role and future of traditional delegation to self-governing actors unclear
- Elections in September 2002 – but opposition parties provide no clear direction either

Report from 2000
available at
www.observatory.dk

A new version will
be available at the
end of this year.

