

Health Sciences Institute

Dept. of Health Care Management

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Health Technology Assessment in the German Health Care System

The case of the ambulatory sector

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German Health Care System

Basic Features

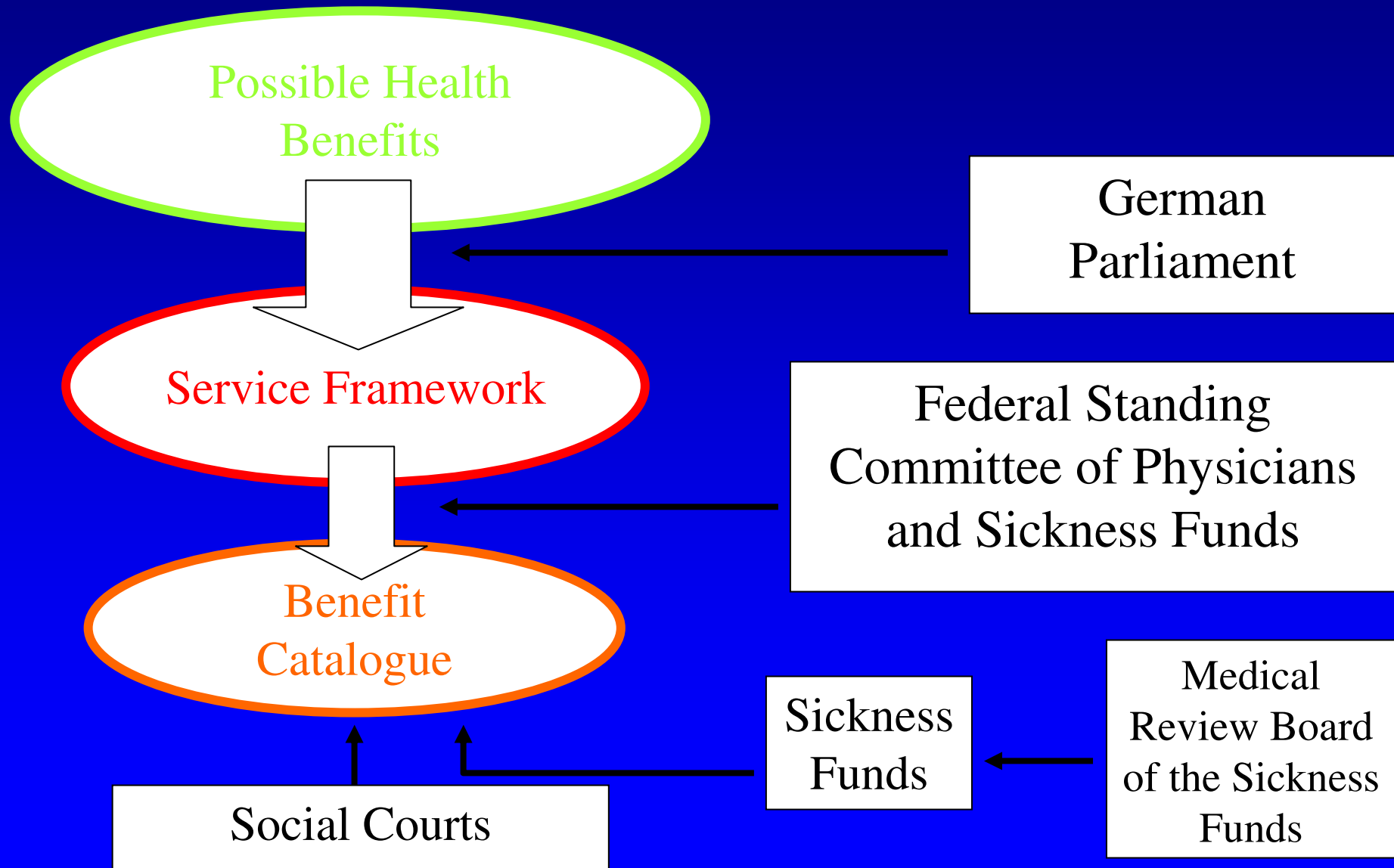
- Statutory Social Health Insurance System
 - covers about 90% of population
- Principle of Solidarity
 - financial contributions differ
 - equal benefits to all insured
- Pluralism
 - Federal government, state governments, self-regulating corporate bodies
- Delegation of power to non-governmental corporate bodies
 - Providers Associations
 - Sickness Funds Associations

German Health Care System

Ambulatory Sector

- Legal mandate for the provision of service relies on associations of physicians
- Service provided in private practices
- Free choice (generalists and specialists)
- No co-payment for services
- Detailed benefits catalogue
- Fee-for-service

Who defines the Benefit Catalogue?



Development of HTA in Germany

German HTA Project

„Orientation“ Phase

Analysis of the international state of the art

„Working“ Phase

Assessment of technologies

Further Development

Priority setting
Rapid HTA

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

„Establishment“ Phase

Development of methodological standards
Networking (international/national)

Institutionalisation

DAHTA@DIMDI

Source: Perleth & Schwartz 2001

HTA culture in the ambulatory sector

- Legal Requirements for inclusion in catalogue
 - medical need
 - benefit / utility
 - efficiency
- Evaluation of benefits
 - already included in catalogue
 - to be included in catalogue
- Information sources
 - status of technology in other countries
 - experts opinions (preferably with references to sources)
 - scientific evidence (HTA-reports, syst. reviews, original studies)
- Transparency (<http://www.kby.de/hta>)

Conclusions

- An academic project has contributed to introduction of HTA culture through
 - development of methodological standards
 - formation of HTA experts
 - stimulating discussion
 - showing that HTA is implementable
- Decision-making on the benefit catalogue for the ambulatory sector increasingly relies on the principles of HTA