Trends in development of CAM practitioners in UK and Germany

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Definition

- CAM is an approach to health care that - while different from conventional medicine - is sometimes complementary to it and at other times is distinctly alternative (Kelner, Wellman et al. 2000)
Background

- Increasing public awareness and media presence of CAM
- Controversial debate on CAM issues - effectiveness
- Increasing concerns about patient safety
- Little empirical data and transparency
Aims

- Creating a knowledge base about CAM practitioners in UK and Germany
  - Comparing the status quo and the development in recent years
  - Comparing regulation to identify gaps and recommendations
Methods

Search for and secondary analysis of

- Epidemiological data and public databases
- PubMed and specific literature
- Population surveys
- Databases compiled by professional bodies
CAM Physicians in different settings - UK

- Total Physicians in 1000
- CAM Physicians in 1000

- Hospital
- GP
- Others
CAM Practitioners - Germany

Numbers/100,000 population

- Physicians
- CAM physicians
- Heilpraktiker

1993 1997 2000
CAM Physicians in different settings - Germany

- Practice
- Hospital
- Governmental Institutions
- Others
- Total

Numbers /100,000 population

- 1995
- 2001
Comparative Results I

- In the international literature, the UK and Germany are regarded as “CAM tolerant“.
- According to population surveys, demand and use of CAM increased over recent years.
- Both countries have seen a substantial increase of CAM qualifications.
Comparative Results II

- Regulation of physicians, other health care professionals and para-medical practitioners is more common in Germany.
- UK started in the early nineties to regulate chiropractitioners and osteopaths.
Discussion

- Obtaining data concerning CAM is still very difficult

- Data on services, remuneration and settings are scarce and contradictory
Perspectives

- Data on registered and on non-registered professionals should be collected

- Consumer protection demands regulation of all CAM practitioners

- The UK and Germany are enhancing attempts to regulate the CAM
I hope you had an inspiring and relaxing congress!
Thank you for your attention!

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