



Medical self-government in Austria

History of the Medical Chambers

- 1891 – Austrian Medical Chamber Foundation Act
- 1949 – revision and reorganization of the Medical Chambers (foundation of the Austrian Medical Chamber, incorporation of insurance associations)
- 1998 – restructuring (and establishing independent bodies for employed and self-employed doctors, as well as dental practitioners)
- 2007 – separation of dental practitioners

- The individual doctor is member of the Province Medical Chamber (of which there are 9)
- The Province Medical Chambers are members of the Austrian Medical Chamber, as provided by the Austrian Medical Act

Tasks and duties

1. Political intervention and public relations
2. Administrative tasks delegated from the state to the Austrian Medical Chamber
3. Regulations in the area of the medical professional law
4. Collective representation of employed doctors
5. Collective representation of self-employed doctors
6. Insurance institution for doctors
7. Service for members

Political interventions and public relations

Political contacts – initiation and influence on legislative procedures

Statutory right to comment all draft laws affecting the medical profession

- Federal laws – Austrian Medical Chamber
- Province laws – Province Medical Chambers

Public relations – supporting the positions of the Austrian Medical profession in public

Delegated administrative tasks

Medical training

- Regulation of medical training
 - Framework specifications in the Austrian Medical Act
 - Duration of training and outline of contents of training - Medical training regulations (Ministry of Health)
 - Detailed training provisions - by decree of the Austrian Medical Chamber
 - Regulation of examinations - by decree of the Austrian Medical Chamber
- Recognition of training posts - Austrian Medical Chamber
- Organization of examinations (Academy of Physicians / Austrian Medical Chamber)
- Diploma issuing - Austrian Medical Chamber

Delegated administrative tasks

Continuing professional development – continuing medical education

- Structured programme of continuing professional development (contents and accreditation of events) – Academy of Physicians / Austrian Medical Chamber

Medical Register (public register of physicians)

- Licensing of physicians by way of registration with the respective Medical Chamber
- Suspension of doctors by erasure from the Medical Register
- Competence of the Austrian Medical Chamber (right of appeal with administrative courts)

Quality assurance

- Decree on quality assurance (criteria for evaluation of medical practices)
- Evaluation of medical practices

Delegated administrative tasks

Disciplinary proceedings

- Five regional disciplinary commissions (right of appeal with administrative courts)

Delegated administrative tasks

Medical professional law

- Advertising guidelines
- Decree on continuing professional development
- Decree on hygiene

adopted by the Austrian Medical Chamber (no consent by the Ministry of Health required)

Collective representation of self-employed physicians

Collective contracts with health insurance funds

- Establishment plan for practices
- Selection of applicants
- Fees for medical services

for nationwide health insurance funds: competence of the Austrian Medical Chamber

for provincewide health insurance funds: competence of the Province Medical Chamber

Collective contracts for practice assistants

concluded between Province Medical Chambers and unions

Collective representation of employed physicians

- Agreement on salaries and supplements with the legal entities
 - *Province Medical Chambers (sometimes jointly with unions)*
- Agreement on fees for medical services for privately insured patients
 - *Province Medical Chambers with private insurances*

Pension and health insurance

- **Pension insurance**

- for all doctors (physicians are entitled to retirement benefits from both, the State and the Medical Chamber).
- *Province Medical Chambers*

- **Health insurance**

- For self-employed doctors instead of statutory health insurance, for employed doctors partly in addition to statutory health insurance
- *Province Medical Chambers*

Service for members

- **Counselling for members in matters relating to professional law** (Province Medical Chambers)
- **Counselling in international matters** (International Department of the Austrian Medical Chamber)
- **Information for members** Homepage, Medical Journal (*Austrian Medical Chamber and Province Medical Chambers*)

Structure of the Province Medical Chambers

Elections every five years

| General Assembly | Extended General Assembly (incl. delegates of the Province Dental Chambers) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Affairs of statutes and by-laws | |

| Body of employed doctors | Board | Body of self-employed doctors |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Head of body of employed doctors | President | Head of body of self-employed doctors |
| Specific affairs of employed doctors | General affairs | Specific affairs of self- employed doctors |

Structure of the Austrian Medical Chamber

| General Assembly |
|--|
| <p>consists of the President and the Heads of Bodies of employed and of self-employed doctors of all Province Medical Chambers</p> |
| <p>Statutes and by-laws and election of the President of the Austrian Medical Chamber</p> |

| Federal Body of employed doctors | Board | Federal Body of self-employed doctors |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Heads of bodies of employed doctors of all Province Medical Chambers + deputies</p> | <p>Presidents of Province Medical Chambers + Heads of Federal Bodies + deputies</p> | <p>Heads of bodies of self-employed doctors of all Province Medical Chambers + deputies</p> |



Thank you for your attention