

## **New medication management developments in Germany**

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Drug related problems (DRP) and particularly non-compliance as a result of polypharmacy are main causes of failed drug therapy and adverse drug events. They are also causes for higher costs in medicines' supply as a result of increased hospital admissions, physician visits, long-term-care and additional treatment.

The Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists (ABDA) and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (KBV) developed an interdisciplinary, team-based approach with a focus on effective communication between physicians and pharmacists. The main objective is to improve the outcome of drug therapy and to reduce adverse drug events due to DRP. The aim of ABDA and KBV is for the concept to be integrated into German law regulating care of statutorily insured patients. This law is to be passed at the end of 2011. By integrating the concept into law patients will have legally regulated access to this service.

The joint developed concept from ABDA and KBV is organized around the main focal point medication management, supported by a medication catalogue as well as prescription of active ingredient. Medication management is geared towards patients who take a minimum of 5 long term medications. The participation in the program will be voluntary and available only to statutorily insured patients. The patient will receive a comprehensive review and targeted continuous care for one year. The drug therapy will be monitored by physician and pharmacist. The close collaboration between physicians and pharmacist allows all of a patients medications (including non-prescription medications) to be registered and assessed for risks. A complete medication plan will be generated and up dated accordingly. The focal points are the improvement adherence and drug safety. One cycle of medication management will finishes after 12 months. A new cycle starts immediately after this period providing the patient is still eligible.