



SWISS SOCIETY OF PHLEBOLOGY
SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR PHLEBOLOGIE
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE PHLÉBOLOGIE
SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI FLEBOLOGIA

Annual Report 2020

Dear members of the Swiss Society of Phlebology

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2020 Annual Report to you.

1. Major political weather situation

1.1 Cost containment measures to relieve the burden on compulsory health care insurance, Report of the Expert Group of 24.08.2017 State intervention: Package of measures I & II (Annexes)

Attached to this annual report we are sending you the expert report on cost containment measures , as well as the fact sheet in the original text. This expert report provides the theoretical basis for a long series of drastic measures in the perfectly functioning Swiss health system , which would in fact lead to the abolition of the free choice of doctor and a global budget. The less drastic package of measures I has already been positively assessed by the National Council , while the Council of States (rightly) remains sceptical . The disastrous Package of Measures II is in the consultation phase.

The FMH, its umbrella organisations , the specialist societies and other groups firmly reject both packages of measures as harmful state intervention in the very well-functioning, liberally organised Swiss health system. The well-coordinated political defence has already begun.

1.2 Covid 19 pandemic

There is now a wealth of technical and political information available on this topic . At the request of individual SGP members, the Executive Board published some useful information on the SGP website in the months of March to June 2020.

2. Tariffs

In a mammoth effort, the medical profession has transformed the TARMED fee-for-service tariff into the TARDOC fee-for-service tariff, which is now before the Federal Council for approval. The prerequisite is an agreement between the FMH and a "critical mass" of health insurance funds that together insure >50% of the Swiss population.

At the same time, the FMCH developed outpatient per-case flat rates with the help of McKinsey. Phlebology is affected by both developments and the SGP delegated its experts to develop both sets of tariffs.

The health insurance umbrella organisation Curafutura (Helsana, Sanitas, KTP and CSS) supports the negotiations on the revised single service tariff TARDOC, but not the outpatient flat rates per case. Curafutura represents 40% of all insured persons in Switzerland. The health insurance umbrella organisation santésuisse (the other 44 health insurance funds, around 60% of all insured persons) is boycotting the negotiations on the revised TARDOC individual service tariff, but supports the flat rates per case.

In May 2020, the health insurance company SWICA (santésuisse), with its 820,000 basic insurance policyholders, newly backed TARDOC without leaving its umbrella organisation santésuisse because of this. Now the five health insurers Helsana, Sanitas, KTP, CSS and SWICA represent > 50% of all insured persons in Switzerland. This was the mandatory requirement for submitting TARDOC to the Federal Council. In principle, the so-called tariff partnership between the medical profession ("service providers") and health insurance funds ("service providers") could now be continued. This is the foundation of the liberal Swiss health care system.

Approximately 20% of all medical services are suitable for mapping and billing as outpatient per-case flat rates. Phlebology bills the endovenous thermal ablation of truncal veins for varicosis as a flat rate per case. This has been accepted and used by most health insurers since 2015, even if there is no official approval by the Federal Council.

This year, all three "purchasing groups" ((1)tarifsuisse for santésuisse, (2) HSK for curafutura and (3) CSS) approved an outpatient per-case flat rate for endovenous thermoablation of the anterior saphenous vein (VSAA). CSS subjects this case flat rate to controlling. It is generally assumed that around 10% of patients (and no more) have a VSAA insufficiency that requires treatment. In the best case scenario, the flat rates per case would also be approved by the Federal Council, so that in the foreseeable future we will once again have tariff certainty for the billing of the ETA.

3. SSP Regulations

We are sending you an overview of the regulations relevant to the SGP in the form of a table as an appendix to this annual report.

The SSP statutes are up to date.

The USGG/SIWF certificate of competence in phlebology is current.

The SGUM/SIWF certificate of competence for duplex ultrasound of the vessels, submodule peripheral veins is current.

The USGG/SIWF certificate of competence for endovenous thermal ablation (ETA) of truncal veins in varicosis is current.

The individual outpatient tariff TARDOC has been finalised and submitted to the Federal Council for approval.

The ETA outpatient per-case flat rates have been applied since 2015 without major problems. However, they have not yet been approved.

The statement "Assessment and treatment of varicosis" (P. Kern et al. 2004) was updated this year and published in the Swiss Medical Journal (Appendix).

The FMCH published the Code of Conduct (Annex).

The Dialogue on Ethics published the Modern Doctors' Oath (<https://www.dialog-ethik.ch/projekte/schweizer-eid>).

In its revised statutes, the FMH strengthened the role of the Professional Ethics Committee. The Professional Ethics Committee deals with violations of the medical code of conduct.

4. SSP-Science Award

The SGP Board evaluates three applications for this year. The first prize (CHF 10,000.00) goes to Dr Marco Fresa (Angiology CHUV): Endovenous laser combined with sclerotherapy for the treatment of large intramuscular venous malformations. Mr Fresa will report on his project at one of the next SGP congresses.

5. SGP Website

The SGP website has been updated and further developed.

The training section, which is divided into national and international training courses and is always up to date, is very popular. If there are any entries missing here, please feel free to forward them to us and we will be happy to include them.

New is the section "Politics", where we file some relevant documents or concise articles.

We publish our society news six times a year in our association organ "Phlebologie" (Thieme-Verlag). The Phlebology website has a link to these society news.

We are now in the process of setting up a protected user group for teaching. This is primarily intended to enable candidates preparing for the multiple choice examination "Certificate of Competence in Phlebology" to learn the current phlebological knowledge in the stored lectures and webinars. A prerequisite for access to this lecture repository would be SGP membership. This should enable us to recruit more young phlebologists for SGP membership in the future.

6. Training courses held in 2020:

26.-31.01.2020 Venalpina IX (Seefeld in Tirol) (O: Salmhofer, Hafner, Mühlberger)
10.09.2020 SGP-Autumn Symposium "Antikoagulation" (online) (O: Kern, Hafner)

7. Planned trainings 2021-22:

National:

04.03.2021 SGP-Webinar: Magna-Crosse (Lugano, online) (O: J. Hafner, P. Cassina)
24.-26.06.2021 European Venous Forum, Budapest (Präs: Heim)
01.-03.12.2021 21st Union Conference, Interlaken (O: Lyck; SGP-Plenar: Ducrey)
02.-04.11.2022 22st Union Conference, Zürich (O: Hafner; SGP-Plenar: Hafner)

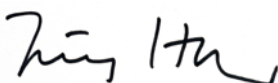
International:

03.-05.12.2020 79^{èmes} Journées de la Soc Française de Phlébologie, Paris
17.-21.03.2021 33rd American Venous Forum, San Antonio TX USA
29.05.2021 1st Veins International Congress Vienna
Sept 2021 35th Annual Congress of the ESVS (to be determined)
08.-11.09.2021 63. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Ges. Phlebologie, Aachen
28.09.-02.10.2021 World Congress UIP, Istanbul
21.-23.10.2021 EVF HOW, Porto
16.-20.11.2021 48th VEITH Symposium, New York, USA

The possibilities of holding a spring symposium in 2021 and 2022 must first be clarified.

On behalf of the SGP Board, I thank you very much for the trust you have placed in us. We wish you and your family good health and success in all your important life plans.

Friendly, collegial greetings



Jürg Hafner
President SSP