ReMed
The tourist’s view
Another reality
ReMed

- Context
- Philosophy
- Services
- Principles

- Questions and Discussion
ReMed Context
Background

Doctors perform a responsible, challenging and exacting job.

As in other professions, some individuals can suffer from professional or personal problems such as burn-out, substance abuse or depression.
Scope of motives

Assistance  Supervision  Sanction

Enhancement  ↔  Monitoring  ↔  Recertification
ReMed Objective

ReMed aims

• to identify and support doctors in crisis situations and, in so doing,
• to ensure a high-quality and safe supply of medical services to the general public.
SMA initiative

• 2006 Feasibility study including survey of doctors' needs
• 2007 – 2010 Pilot project, launched in the cantons of Thurgau and Neuchatel, gradually expanded to regions
• External evaluation 2010
• From project to programme: Launch of ReMed Switzerland on 29.10.2010
Feasibility study with survey 2006

Need for a help point for doctors
## Response to online survey

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<th>German</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>4,365</td>
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<td><strong>Q completed</strong></td>
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<td>674</td>
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<td>15.4%</td>
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<td><strong>∅ Time</strong></td>
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<td>26:33</td>
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Findings of Survey I

Quite important to very important (N = 3347):

• Non-committing counselling/advice for doctors 92%
• Coaching for doctors 91%
• Further referral of doctors 80%
• Investigation of doctors based on concrete indications 71%
• Initiation of interventions 67%
• Provision of support services for patients and staff 59%
• Further referral of patients and staff 56%
• Point of contact for patients and staff 59%
Findings of Survey II

Need for ReMed  \( N = 3091 \)

Quite high  \( 44\% = 56\% \)

Very high  \( 12\% \)

Don't know  \( 07\% \)

Quite low  \( 33\% = 37\% \)

Very low  \( 4\% \)
ReMed Philosophy
ReMed services:

- Mentoring
- Coaching
- Assessment

Healthy:
- Resource promotion
- Optimisation of living conditions/lifestyle
- Prevention
- Early detection (primary prevention)
- Treatment to prevent an illness becoming chronic (secondary prevention)

Dysfunctional:
- Treatment of the dysfunctionality, prevention of follow-up problems (tertiary prevention)
Ability to function as a doctor
Functionality

- Professional competence
- Social skills
- Emotionally present, participative, professionally fulfilled
- Respect for boundaries and appropriate conduct
- Good life-work balance, no addictive behaviour
- Ability to cope with own crises and illnesses
- Ability to cope with unfavourable working conditions
- Other
Dysfunctionality

- Professional incompetence
- Lack of or insufficient social skills
- Medical impairing problems
- Burnout, addiction
- Mental illness exhibited by doctor, such as psychosis, suicidal tendency
- No respect for boundaries, sexual assault
- Doctor as victim of unfavourable working conditions
- Other
ReMed Services
Services

• Prevention (planned)
• Crisis intervention and networking
• Mentoring – empowerment
• Coaching - support
• Assessment – intervention

• Intervision for Caregivers
Crisis intervention and networking

• After contact has been made, ReMed provides qualified specialists from existing services in the region for the various counselling stages.

• This professional approach enables advice to be tailored optimally to the individual circumstances.
Assessment – intervention

• After an initial analysis of the situation, ReMed works with the affected doctor to define individual targets and supports and advises him/her until he/she is once more able to meet his/her quality standards.

• Only the affected doctor can mandate ReMed. Different (sanctioning) organizations can suggest ReMed as a second chance: cantonal physicians, medical societies, associations or networks.

• The affected doctor contacts ReMed and agrees to cooperate in working out proposals, which generally cover an assessment, targeted intervention, and finally a reevaluation.
Overview

ReMed Network
- Cant. associations
- Specialist societies
- Cantonal Physicians Networks
- Quality groups
- Spitex
- Med. staff
- Ombudsmen
- Patient associations etc.

ReMed Co-ordination
- Support
- Disclosure
- Advice/counselling
- Contact
- Feedback on service
- Poss. agreement
- Counselling relationship
- Poss. agreement

Doctors in crisis situations

ReMed Services
- Prevention
- Mentoring
- Coaching
- Assessment
ReMed Principles
Resources

- Contact channels
  - Hotline (24-hour, trilingual): 0800-073633
  - Website contact form: www.swiss-remed.ch
  - E-mail address: www.swiss-remed.ch

- SOP: Procedure after initial contact (doctor or close colleagues/family etc.)

- Manual: Documentation of ReMed principles

- Journal: Internet-based case documentation with highest security standard

- Intervision option for supporting doctors

- Communication: SÄZ, website, flyer, mini posters
Standard Operating Procedures SOP

Query/report

ReMed Hotline
0800 – 0 ReMed

Telephone triage

Emergency

Local emergency service

Internet
www.swiss-remed.ch
help@swiss-remed.ch

Steering Committee doctor
Within 72 hours of report

Physician
Separation of Tasks

• SMA sponsors ReMed.

• Operationally and in terms of authority to act, ReMed is integrated in the SMA as a largely autonomous structure.

• At no time does the SMA have the right to inspect the personal and case files. ReMed is bound by the medical confidentiality obligation, and medically related tasks are clearly separated from administrative tasks.
Organisational chart

Strategic Level

- Central Board
  - FMH
  - Physicians’ Council
  - Programme Management
  - Partners’ Council

Operational Level

- Ethics Council
- Steering Committee
- Back Office
- Network Members
- Network Partners
- Inspection of personal data
Operational Management

Programme Management

- Dr. med. M. Peltenburg, Specialist in General Medicine SMA
- M. Hersperger, lic.phil, Head of Data, Demography and Quality (DDQ) Department, SMA

Steering Committee

- Dr. med. M. Peltenburg, Specialist in General Medicine SMA
- Dr. med. J. Bänninger Specialist in General Medicine SMA
- Dr. med. P. Birchler Specialist in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy SMA
- Dr. med. J. Torgler Specialist in General Medicine and in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy SMA
Advisory Councils

• The Physicians' Council and Partners' Council are committed to open communication, and inform ReMed of their needs and provide feedback. They formulate requirements for ReMed, and support and collaborate on their implementation. Advisory councils take part in information events and support ReMed's message. They advocate their organisations' interests and concerns, and issue recommendations. Advisory councils can table topics for discussion.

• The advisory councils have no decision-making authority within ReMed.

• Members: Umbrella & partner organisations within the medical community
Successful support services to date
Successful support for: 131 colleagues

- Male 42%
- Female 58%
- Burnout, depression 47%
- Practice/day-to-day management 32%
- Addiction (alcohol, pornography, etc.) 09%
- Other 12%
Questions and Discussion