


UNIKLINIK KÖLN Department of Palliative Medicine

## German National guideline: Palliative Care for oncological patients



**Concept and integration into disease-specific guidelines**

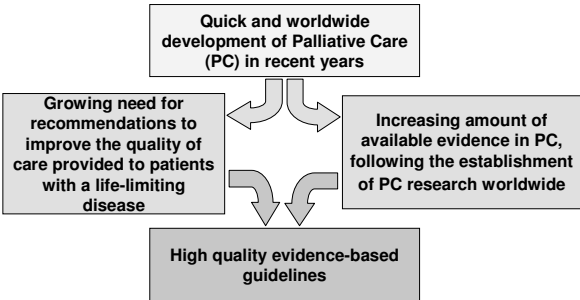
Prof Raymond Voltz,  
University Hospital Cologne,  
Department of Palliative  
Medicine

GIN Congress, Berlin 2012

DKG Deutsche Krebshilfe AWMF Leitlinienprogramm Onkologie

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## Background



Quick and worldwide development of Palliative Care (PC) in recent years

Growing need for recommendations to improve the quality of care provided to patients with a life-limiting disease

Increasing amount of available evidence in PC, following the establishment of PC research worldwide

High quality evidence-based guidelines

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## Objectives

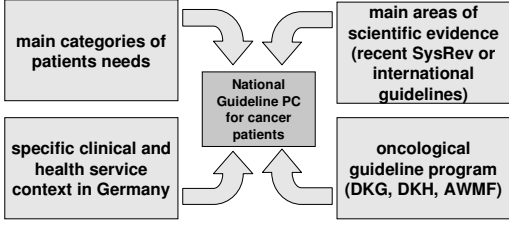
- German Guideline Program in Oncology 2010: Palliative Care Guideline for cancer patients (German Society for Palliative Medicine)
- Aim of the presentation
  - concept underlying the development of the guideline
  - integration into disease-specific guidelines.

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## Method

Key elements for structuring the guideline



main categories of patients needs

main areas of scientific evidence (recent SysRev or international guidelines)

National Guideline PC for cancer patients

specific clinical and health service context in Germany

oncological guideline program (DKG, DKH, AWMF)

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## Results

1. Seven main topics:
  - clinical symptoms and general needs of PC patients

Dyspnea	Pain	Depression	Constipation	Communication	Dying phase	Organisation of PC services
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  - additional topics as part of future version 2.0
2. Target population: cancer patients
 

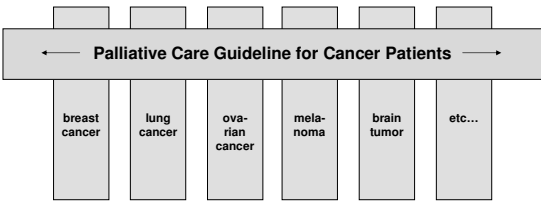
Studies inclusion criteria may be restricted to cancer (e.g. depression) or include further illnesses – if an extrapolation of the results to cancer patients makes sense (e.g. dyspnea).

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## Results

3. Cross-disease conception and disease-specific guidelines: integration & separation



Palliative Care Guideline for Cancer Patients

breast cancer lung cancer ova-rian cancer mela-noma brain tumor etc...

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### Results

3. Cross-disease conception and disease-specific guidelines: integration & separation

- **delineation**
  - all recommendations will be independent of underlying diagnosis
  - disease-specific therapies are not part of the PC - guideline
- **integration:**
  - **standard paragraph** for all „vertical“ guidelines
  - all „vertical“ guidelines program should formulate a least one **key question** on PC and include palliative experts into their consensus panel
  - **adapation** of relevant recommendations

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### Results

4. Current status of project

- 41 medical and health care professional associations
- 7 working groups
- Timetable:

	3.2011	4.2011	1.2012	2.2012	3.2012	4.2012	1.2013	2.2013	3.2013	4.2013	1.2014	2014-1
1st consensus conference	█											
Organisation PC services	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Dyspnea		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Depression			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Dying phase				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Pain					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Constipation						█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Communication							█	█	█	█	█	█
Update											█	█
2nd consensus conference											█	█
Quality indicators											█	█
Patient information leaflet											█	█
Dissemination											█	█

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### Summary and Conclusion

- German national palliative care guideline for cancer patients: seven main topics, consensus process
- Complementary to cancer diagnosis-specific guidelines
- Basis for future „health services guideline“ (NVL)
- Offers a model how to integrate „palliative care“ into guidelines in oncology and other fields of medicine

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### Integration of Palliative Care

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