

# German Clearinghouse for Patient Information

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## Extended Abstract

The German Clearinghouse for Patient Information (GCPI) is the first health program in Germany that has been developed, sponsored, and accepted jointly by the most important national organizations of both physicians and self-help groups.

AQuMed started the development of the German Clearinghouse for Patient Information in 1999, the aim being the improvement of the quality of health information for lay people. AQuMed and its partners developed and established procedures and tools for:

- the prioritization of consumer health information topics at a national level
- the identification of health information of prioritized topics by means of a standardized search strategy;
- the critical appraisal of the form and content of patient information on the basis of the German DISCERN instrument (<http://www.discern.de/>) and the Check-In instrument;
- the dissemination of appraised information disclosing the best available consumer information by means of the Internet-based information service at <http://www.patienten-information.de/>;
- the joint development of high-quality patient information by self-help organizations and scientific medical societies and last but not least
- the establishment of a training program for health professionals aiming at the systematic use of the best available consumer information in everyday practice.

Until now we have 948 links in our database, among 335 treatment information, which are review with DISCERN and Check In. The other types of information like background information, web sites from medical organizations or self-help groups are not be evaluated. The critical appraisal is carried out through an internet base platform, so the results of a review are instantly available for the user. This is the only technological support we are using by now. The whole review process as well as the control of reviewed links are made “by Hand”.

Working in the project MedIEQ opens for us the possibility to integrate these new technologies in our work as follow:

- AQUA would help us to select the pages to include in our database (not only treatment information).
- The review of the treatment information according to DISCERN (only a part) would still do manually, since it requires that the evaluator reads the content.
- AQUA would be also useful to regularly control the included pages to identify changes and updates.