

## **KBV-innovation service: Quality of life (QoL) as outcome - a proposal for structured handling**

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### **Background**

In Germany, there is a clear consensus that QoL is an important patient related outcome. Both the German Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) and the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) agree to that. Nevertheless, there is still a lack in their methodology how that topic should be handled in a detail and could influence their decisions about medical innovations.

### **Methods**

The proposed structure for the handling of the evaluation of QoL was be geared on our experiences in preparation of HTAs. Furthermore, opinions of experts on the field of QoL and the perspective of representatives of patients were integrated.

### **Results**

In principle the structure is similar to the preparation of a systematic review. As a result a QoL-dossier will be generated including following points: 1) Definition of the aim population/disease including opinions of representatives of patients as coworker. 2) Identification of QoL criteria which are relevant for the disease. 3) Literature research for useful general and specific QoL-measurements. 4) Check of validity and availability of detected QoL-measurements (e.g. costs, language). 5) Literature research for treatment studies of innovations which use validated QoL-measurements. 6) optional: delphi panels concerning QoL criteria at representatives of patients if no QoL-measurements are available. 7) Short summary. The application of this structure will be demonstrated using some examples.

### **Conclusions**

As result of that structured process it is possible to get a quick overview about the state of things concerning the evaluation of QoL for a disease/medical innovation. That is important to recognize e.g. scientific lacks. Furthermore, new studies evaluating innovations could be optimized in terms of applying useful QoL-measurements.