



ON THE WAY TO QUALITY ASSURANCE IN MUSIC THERAPY – IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EDP-SUPPORTED DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM

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AIM OF INVESTIGATION: Since 1989, paragraphs §135 to §139 of the German Sozialgesetzbuch has been stipulated quality assurance for all types of service. Legal regulations for quality control measures in outpatient treatment were also implemented.

While established forms of psychotherapy (such as behaviour therapy or face-to-face conversation-style psychotherapy) have been examining the quality of therapeutic measures in outpatient and stationary treatment since the early 90's, there are comparatively few approaches in music therapy concerned with the issue of quality control (Wormit et al. 2002). In the project DATAMED an EDP-supported documentation system was developed. The goals are an optimization and a standardization of music therapy documentation and the construction of a data bank in which clinical data is collected, categorized and evaluated.

METHODS: The basic documentation plays a central part in quality control. It comprises data on patients, treatment and results. Quality control can not take place, statements about quality and results can not be made without an adequate, standardized documentation (Kordy&Puschner 2000).

Data monitoring is a central technique in quality management with which selected aspects of clinical activity can be monitored. In our project DATAMED the monitoring is based the following methods: pre-post-analysis, the method of clinical significance (Jacobson&Truax 1998; and the use of reliable and valid psychological, music therapeutic questionnaires.

RESULTS: The EDP-supported documentation system was in outpatient and in-patient music therapy as well music therapeutic education. It optimizes the initial and progress measures. Results are that the documentation system is a valid instrument for measuring changes and outcome in music therapy. A data monitoring for music therapy with pain patients, patients with dialysis and children was set up.

CONCLUSIONS: For scientifically oriented music therapy it is important to build up documentation systems which show treatment outcome. This EDP-supported system demonstrates the practicable use of therapy documentation and its realization in the music therapeutic field.

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