Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI

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POST CH AG

Einschreiben
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Aktenzeichen: 536.2-8/5
Bern, 22. August 2025

VERFÜGUNG

vom 22. August 2025

in Sachen

Swiss Academy of Chiropractic SAC
Sulgenauweg 38
3007 Bern

betreffend

Gesuch um Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsgangs Chiropraktik der Swiss Academy of Chiropractic, eingereicht am 23.08.2023;

Akkreditierungsentscheid gültig ab 01.10.2025 bis 30.09.2032

Inselgasse 1, CH-3003 Bern
www.edi.admin.ch

I. Sachverhalt

A Die Swiss Academy of Chiropractic (nachfolgend SAC) ist das federführende Organ für alle Belange der chiropraktorischen Weiter- und Fortbildung. In seiner Funktion als verantwortliche Organisation im Sinne von Artikel 25 und 26 des Medizinalberufegesetzes vom 23. Juni 2006 (MedBG) stellt die SAC dem Eidgenössischen Departement des Innern (EDI) jeweils Gesuch um Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsgangs in Chiropraktik, der zu einem eidg. Weiterbildungstitel führen soll. Das Verfahren zur Akkreditierung dieses Weiterbildungsgangs wird mit einem Round Table mit der SAC eingeleitet.

B Am 23.08.2023 hat die SAC das Gesuch um Akkreditierung (datiert auf den 23.08.2023) des Weiterbildungsgangs Chiropraktik bei der Akkreditierungsinstanz, dem Eidgenössischen Departement des Innern (nachfolgend EDI) bzw. beim Bundesamt für Gesundheit (nachfolgend BAG) eingereicht. Dem Gesuch lag der entsprechende Selbstbeurteilungsbericht mit Anhängen bei.

C Am 15.09.2023 hat das BAG das Akkreditierungsgesuch mit dem Selbstbeurteilungsbericht und den Anhängen an die Schweizerische Agentur für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung (nachfolgend AAQ; Akkreditierungsorgan) zur Einleitung der Fremdevaluation weitergeleitet. Die AAQ hat daraufhin die Fremdevaluation mit der Einsetzung der Expertenkommission für die Begutachtung des Weiterbildungsgangs eingeleitet.

D Am 25.06.2024 fand die Begutachtung des Weiterbildungsgangs anlässlich eines Round Tables statt. Der Entwurf des Expertenberichtes vom 02.08.2025 empfiehlt die Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsganges in Chiropraktik ohne Auflagen. Dieser Entwurf wurde der verantwortlichen Organisation zur Stellungnahme unterbreitet.

E Am 26.09.2024 unterbreiteten das SAC und die Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Chiropraktik der AAQ ihre Stellungnahme, welche in den Fremdevaluationsbericht Eingang fand.

F Die AAQ hat am 03.10.2024 beim BAG ihren Fremdevaluationsbericht mit Antrag zur Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsgangs Chiropraktik ohne Auflagen eingereicht. Die AAQ stützt ihren Antrag auf den Bericht der Expertenkommission und dessen Prüfung sowie die eigenen Beurteilungen.

G Mit Entscheid vom 26.03.2025 empfiehlt die Medizinalberufekommission (nachfolgend MEBEKO), den Weiterbildungsgang Chiropraktik der SAC ohne Auflagen zu akkreditieren.

H Mit Schreiben per E-Mail vom 11.07.2025 hat das BAG die SAC im Rahmen des rechtlichen Gehörs über den vorgesehenen Entscheid der Akkreditierungsinstanz (EDI) informiert und die Möglichkeit gegeben, eine allfällige Stellungnahme bis 25.07.2025 im Rahmen des rechtlichen Gehörs schriftlich einzureichen.

I Mit Stellungnahme vom 25.07.2025 erklärt sich die SAC mit dem beabsichtigten Entscheid einverstanden.

II. Erwägungen

A. Formelles

1. Weiterbildungsgänge in den universitären Medizinalberufen, die zu einem eidgenössischen Weiterbildungstitel führen, müssen gemäss MedBG akkreditiert sein (vgl. Art. 23 Abs. 2 MedBG). Die Akkreditierung dient der Überprüfung, ob der Weiterbildungsgang es den Personen in Weiterbildung erlaubt, die Ziele des MedBG zu erreichen. Sie schliesst auch die Überprüfung der Qualität von Strukturen, Prozessen und Ergebnissen mit ein (vgl. Art. 22 MedBG). Für die Akkreditierung von Weiterbildungsgängen ist das EDI als (Akkreditierungsinstanz) zuständig (Art. 28 i.V.m. Art. 47 Abs. 2 MedBG).

2. Ein Weiterbildungsgang, der zu einem eidgenössischen Weiterbildungstitel nach MedBG führen soll, wird akkreditiert, wenn er die Akkreditierungskriterien gemäss Artikel 25 Absatz 1 MedBG erfüllt.

3. Gemäss Artikel 25 Absatz 2 MedBG kann der Bundesrat nach Anhörung der MEBEKO und der für die Weiterbildungsgänge verantwortlichen Organisationen Bestimmungen erlassen, welche das Akkreditierungskriterium gemäss Artikel 25 Absatz 1 Buchstabe b MedBG konkretisieren. Artikel 11 Absatz 6 der Medizinalberufeverordnung vom 27. Juni 2007[1] (MedBV) delegiert diese Kompetenz ans EDI.

4. Mit der Verordnung des EDI über die Akkreditierung der Weiterbildungsgänge der universitären Medizinalberufe vom 20. August 2007[2] (AkkredV-MedBG) hat das EDI entsprechend Qualitätsstandards (QS) für die Weiterbildungsgänge in Humanmedizin, Zahnmedizin, Chiropraktik und Pharmazie erlassen. Diese Qualitätsstandards sind auf der Webseite des BAG (www.bag.admin.ch) publiziert. Alle Weiterbildungsgänge, die akkreditiert werden sollen, werden daraufhin überprüft, ob sie diese QS erfüllen. Dies erfolgt, um festzustellen, ob sie dem Akkreditierungskriterium nach Artikel 25 Absatz 1 Buchstabe b MedBG genügen.

5. Gemäss Artikel 26 Absatz 1 MedBG reicht die für einen Weiterbildungsgang verantwortliche Organisation das Gesuch um Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsgangs bei der Akkreditierungsinstanz ein. Dem Gesuch muss ein Bericht über die Erfüllung der Akkreditierungskriterien (Selbstevaluationsbericht) beigelegt werden (Art. 26 Abs. 2 MedBG).

6. Für die Organisation und Durchführung der Fremdevaluation ist gemäss Artikel 48 Absatz 2 MedBG i.V.m. Artikel 11 Absatz 1 MedBV die AAQ zuständig. Die AAQ setzt zur Prüfung der Weiterbildungsgänge Expertenkommissionen ein, die sich aus anerkannten schweizerischen und ausländischen Fachleuten zusammensetzen (Art. 27 Abs. 1 und 2 MedBG).

7. Die Expertenkommission prüft den Weiterbildungsgang ausgehend vom entsprechenden Selbstevaluationsbericht und von Gesprächen vor Ort. Sie unterbreitet der AAQ aufgrund ihrer Untersuchungen einen begründeten Antrag zur Akkreditierung. Die AAQ kann den Antrag der Expertenkommission zur weiteren Bearbeitung an die Expertenkommission zurückweisen oder ihn, wenn erforderlich, mit einem Zusatzantrag und Zusatzbericht der Akkreditierungsinstanz zum Entscheid überweisen (Art. 27 Abs. 5 MedBG).

8. Die Akkreditierungsinstanz entscheidet nach Anhörung der MEBEKO über die Anträge und kann die Akkreditierung mit Auflagen verbinden (Art. 28 MedBG). Werden die Auflagen nicht erfüllt und

[1] SR **811.112.0**

[2] SR **811.112.03**

wird dadurch die Einhaltung der Akkreditierungskriterien in schwerwiegendem Mass in Frage gestellt, so kann die Akkreditierungsinstanz die Akkreditierung auf Antrag der AAQ entziehen (Art. 30 Abs. 3 MedBG).

9. Gemäss Artikel 29 Absatz 2 MedBG gilt die Akkreditierung der Weiterbildungsgänge höchstens sieben Jahre.

10. Die Akkreditierung der Weiterbildungsgänge wird durch Gebühren zulasten der verantwortlichen Organisation finanziert (Art. 32 Abs. 2 MedBG). Gemäss Anhang 5 Ziffer 6 MedBV betragen diese Gebühren zwischen CHF 10'000 und CHF 50'000.

11. Die Akkreditierungsentscheide, die Expertenberichte und die Berichte des Akkreditierungsorgans (AAQ) werden auf der Webseite des BAG publiziert (Art. 11 Abs. 5 MedBV).

12. Nach Artikel 31 MedBG ist jede materielle Änderung eines akkreditierten Weiterbildungsgangs der Akkreditierungsinstanz zur Kenntnis zu bringen. Sollte die Änderung den Akkreditierungskriterien zuwiderlaufen, so kann die Akkreditierungsinstanz Auflagen festlegen.

B. Materielles

1. Die Expertinnen und Experten dokumentieren im Rahmen des Fremdevaluationsberichts vom 03.10.2024: «Die Profession der Chiropraktik in der Schweiz gesamthaft, und insbesondere die Dozierenden und Workshopleitenden der Akademie sowie das gesamte Organisationsteam des Postgraduierten-Programms und die ehemaligen und derzeitigen Führungskräfte von Chirosuisse verdienen grosses Lob für ihre langjährige Weitsicht, Inspiration, Hingabe und unermüdliche harte Arbeit. Dies hat dazu geführt, dass die Schweiz die besten Bedingungen für Chiropraktorinnen und Chiropraktoren und damit für Chiropraktik-Patientinnen und Patienten weltweit bietet.»

2. Die Expertenkommission kommt zum Schluss, dass der begutachtete Weiterbildungsgang die Akkreditierungskriterien gemäss Artikel 25 MedBG erfüllt.

   Aufgrund ihrer Analysen empfiehlt die Expertenkommission die Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsgangs Chiropraktik des SAC ohne Auflagen.

   Darüber hinaus kann die Expertenkommission Empfehlungen zur Weiterentwicklung des Weiterbildungsgangs formulieren. Diese werden der verantwortlichen Organisation mitgeteilt. Die Expertenkommission hat folgende 11 Empfehlungen festgehalten:

   Empfehlung 1: Die Akademie sollte sich bemühen, eine bessere Integration der Weiterzubildenden, die nicht bereits an der Universität Zürich ausgebildet wurden, in das postgraduale Programm und die Kohorte zu ermöglichen.

   Empfehlung 2: Die Akademie sollte mehr Online-Kursformate (wo geeignet) ermöglichen, um den Weiterzubildenden stundenlanges Reisen zu ersparen.

   Empfehlung 3: Die Akademie sollte die in den CanMEDS enthaltenen Kompetenzen im Curriculum und für die Weiterzubildenden deutlicher machen.

   Empfehlung 4: Die Akademie sollte mehr praktische klinische Inhalte in das Postgraduiertenprogramm integrieren – auch um es klar vom medizinischen Grundausbildungsprogramm zu unterscheiden und ein angemessenes Profil für die postgraduale Weiterbildung in Chiropraktik zu schaffen.

   Empfehlung 5: Die Akademie sollte ein System entwickeln, das es den Weiterzubildenden ermöglicht, unerwünschte Ereignisse als Lernmöglichkeiten zu nutzen.

   Empfehlung 6: Die Akademie sollte bei ihren Weiterbildenden eine professionelle Haltung in Bezug auf den Einsatz evidenzbasierter Methoden in ihren Behandlungen sicherstellen.

   Empfehlung 7: Die Nutzung elektronischer Ablagesysteme sollte eine Voraussetzung für die Aufnahme von Weiterzubildenden in eine Praxis sein.

   Empfehlung 8: Die Akademie sollte die Verantwortlichen dazu ermutigen, den Weiterzubildenden ein angemessenes Gehalt zu zahlen.

   Empfehlung 9: Die Akademie sollte Weiterzubildende in die Überarbeitung und Entwicklung des Curriculums einbeziehen und generell ihr Feedback systematischer sammeln und nutzen.

   Empfehlung 10: Die Akademie sollte die relevanten Informationen zu Beschwerden auf ihrer Webseite veröffentlichen.

   Empfehlung 11: Die Akademie sollte systematischer an der spezifischen didaktischen Qualifikation und Weiterentwicklung ihrer Weiterbildenden arbeiten.

3. Die AAQ hat ihren Antrag vom 03.10.2024 betreffend die Akkreditierung des Weiterbildungsgangs ohne Auflagen zusammen mit dem Fremdevaluationsbericht beim BAG eingereicht.

4. Die MEBEKO hat sich an ihrer Sitzung vom 26.03.2025, in Kenntnis sämtlicher Unterlagen zum Akkreditierungsverfahren des Weiterbildungsgangs Chiropraktik des SAC, ausführlich beraten.

Soweit die MEBEKO das Verfahren beurteilen kann, stellt sie fest, dass das Akkreditierungsverfahren korrekt nach den geltenden Rechtsgrundlagen und Standards durchgeführt worden ist. Gemäss den der MEBEKO vorliegenden Berichten wird eine Akkreditierung ohne Auflagen empfohlen und entsprechend beantragt.

Die MEBEKO beurteilt den Akkreditierungsantrag des Weiterbildungsgangs Arbeitsmedizin wie folgt:

1. Die MEBEKO unterstützt die von den Expertinnen und Experten gemachten Empfehlungen.
2. Die MEBEKO teilt die Beurteilung der Expertinnen und Experten, den Weiterbildungsgang ohne Auflagen zu akkreditieren.

5. Nach detaillierter Prüfung des Fremdevaluationsberichts, der Empfehlungen und Anträge der Expertenkommission und der AAQ sowie der Stellungnahme der MEBEKO und gestützt auf die angeführten Erwägungen, gelangt das EDI im Entwurf dieser Verfügung zum Schluss, dem Gesuch der SAC um Akkreditierung ihres Weiterbildungsgangs Chiropraktik sei zu entsprechen und der Weiterbildungsgang sei ohne Auflagen zu akkreditieren.

6. Am 11.07.2025 hat das BAG der SAC den Entwurf des Akkreditierungsentscheids per E-Mail zugestellt und eine Frist bis zum 25.07.2025 zur Stellungnahme gewährt (rechtliches Gehör i.S.v. Art. 29 ff des Bundesgesetzes vom 20. Dezember 1968 über das Verwaltungsverfahren, VwVG).

7. Am 25.07.2025 hat die SAC Stellung genommen und dem BAG schriftlich ihr Einverständnis mit dem beabsichtigten Entscheid mitgeteilt.

8. Aus diesem Grund hält das EDI am vorgesehenen Akkreditierungsentscheid fest und verfügt, was folgt:

III. Entscheid

Gestützt auf die vorstehenden Ausführungen sowie Artikel 22-32 und 47 Absatz 2 MedBG wird

verfügt:

1. Der Weiterbildungsgang Chiropraktik wird ohne Auflagen akkreditiert.

2. Die Akkreditierung gilt, nach unbenutztem Ablauf der Rechtsmittelfrist, für die Dauer von sieben Jahren ab dem 01.10.2025 bis 30.09.2032.

3. Gestützt auf Artikel 32 Absatz 2 MedBG sowie Artikel 15 i.V.m. Anhang 5, Ziffer 6 MedBV werden folgende Gebühren festgelegt:

Aufwand AAQ (laut gestellter Rechnung)	CHF	14'781.41
Pauschale: Aufwand Akkreditierung	CHF	3'000.-
Total Gebühren	**CHF**	**17'781.41**

Diese Gebühren werden im Rahmen einer Gesamtabrechnung der Akkreditierungsverfahren Chiropraktik erhoben.

4. Die vorliegende Verfügung, die Expertenberichte und die Berichte des Akkreditierungsorgans werden auf der Website des BAG publiziert.

Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern

Elisabeth Baume-Schneider
Bundesrätin

Zu eröffnen an:

Swiss Academy of Chiropractic SAC
Dr. Lydia Tchambaz
Sulgenauweg 38
3007 Bern

Rechtsmittelbelehrung

Gegen diese Verfügung kann gemäss Artikel 50 des Bundesgesetzes vom 20. Dezember 1968 über das Verwaltungsverfahren (VwVG; SR 172.021) innert 30 Tagen nach Eröffnung beim Bundesverwaltungsgericht, Postfach, 9023 St. Gallen, Beschwerde erhoben werden. Die Beschwerde hat die Begehren, deren Begründung mit Angabe der Beweismittel und die Unterschrift der beschwerdeführenden Partei oder ihres Vertreters zu enthalten. Die angefochtene Verfügung und die als Beweismittel angerufenen Urkunden sind beizulegen, soweit die beschwerdeführende Partei sie in Händen hat (Art. 52 Abs. 1 VwVG).

Kopie(n):
- BAG
- MEBEKO, Ressort Weiterbildung
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Chiropraktik

schweizerische agentur für akkreditierung und qualitätssicherung

agence suisse d'accréditation et d'assurance qualité

agenzia svizzera di accreditamento e garanzia della qualità

swiss agency of accreditation and quality assurance

Accreditation 2025

of postgraduate medical education pursuant Swiss Medical Professions Act (MedPA)

Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Postgraduate Medical Education Programme in Chiropractic

03.10.2024

Inhalt:

1. *Accreditation 25* of postgraduate medical education in accordance with MedPA....3
2. Responsible organisation and further education programme 5

   Swiss Academy of Chiropractic and its postgraduate medical education programme in Chiropractic 5
3. Evaluation of the quality standards 7

   Quality area I: Education objectives....7

   Quality area II: Concept 15

   Quality area III: Implementation 19

   Quality area IV: Quality assurance....23

   Quality area V: (Further) development....26
4. Overall assessment / strengths and challenges of the further education programmes 32
5. AAQ accreditation request 34

1. *Accreditation 25* of postgraduate medical education in accordance with MedPA

Accreditation according to the Medical Professions Act

According to the Medical Professions Act (MedPA), postgraduate education programmes that lead to a federal postgraduate education title must be accredited every seven years. The Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) is the accreditation authority and thus responsible for the accreditation of postgraduate education programmes in accordance with the MedPA (Art. 47 para. 2). *Accreditation 2025* is designed as a project of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) as the responsible authority on behalf of the FDHA. The objectives and framework of the accreditation and the quality standards derived from it are defined by the FOPH.

The accreditation body within the meaning of Article 48 paragraph 2 MedPA is the Swiss Agency for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ). In this role, AAQ is responsible for the organisation and implementation of the external evaluation.

According to Art. 23 para. 2 MedPA, accreditation only applies to the postgraduate education programmes of the professional associations. De facto, however, the responsible organisations have a central role in the area of postgraduate medical education: they define basic structures, processes and documents for all postgraduate education courses in their discipline as a comprehensive framework (postgraduate education regulations). For this reason, the accreditation of postgraduate education programmes is preceded by an evaluation of the responsible organisations: in this way, aspects of the quality standards are answered and assessed at the level where they are relevant.

Self-evaluation

As part of a self-assessment process, the responsible organisations have commented on all quality standards.

The text elements for self-evaluation are transparently integrated into this report and labelled accordingly (highlighted in blue).

External evaluation

AAQ put together an external expert commission for the external evaluation. This committee assessed the fulfilment of the quality standards on the basis of the self-assessment and the discussions during the *round table* (highlighted in orange). AAQ in turn formulated an accreditation application based on the assessment of the expert group (all text parts from AAQ are highlighted in grey).

Statement

The responsible organisations were able to comment on the assessments of the expert group and AAQ's proposal.

Accreditation decision and publication

Once the external evaluation has been completed, AAQ forwards the dossier to the FOPH. The head of the FDHA makes the final accreditation decision. The decision of the accreditation body for each procedure may be as follows: Accreditation without conditions, accreditation with condition(s) or not accredited. Accreditation is valid for seven years. The decision includes information on legal remedies.

Reports and accreditation decisions are published by the FOPH and AAQ.

The FOPH carries out any condition reviews.

2. Responsible organisation and postgraduate medical education programme

Swiss Academy of Chiropractic and its postgraduate medical education programme in Chiropractic

The Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Introduction

The Swiss Academy of Chiropractic offers a two-and-a-half-year postgraduate education program. This programme was launched in 1975 and further developed and centralized at the Swiss Institute of Chiropractic in Berne in 1984.

The Swiss Academy of Chiropractic aims to set the standard for postgraduate education and formation for the chiropractic profession in Europe in order to improve the quality of patient care. It offers all Swiss chiropractors a broad and high-quality educational program that enables reflective practice and lifelong learning and contributes to the ethical, professional and personal development of practitioners.

The Federal Act on University Medical Professions stipulates an accreditation requirement for postgraduate education courses leading to a federal title, which is the case for the postgraduate education course in chiropractic leading to the federal title "Specialist chiropractor".

This self-evaluation is based on the quality standards developed by the Federal Office of Public Health FOPH in July 2022.

Contributors to the self-evaluation

Dieter Steiner, Director SAC from 01.06.2023
Dr.sc. Fanny Theytaz, Director SAC until 31.05.2023
Sabine Schläppi, Managing Director Chirosuisse
Dr. Johanna Forrer, DC MME, former Director SAC
Dr. Mirjam Baechler, DC MMEd, Head of Chiropractic Medicine Studies at the University of Zurich
Dr. Beatrice Wettstein, President ChiroSuisse
Dr. med. chiro. Melanie Häusler, can. MME
Dr. Beatrice Zaugg, DC MME, Project Management Federal Examination in Chiropractic

Procedure

AAQ commissioned the following experts

- Dr. Henrik Wulff Christensen, CEO, Head of research, Odense, Denmark
- Dr. Cynthia Peterson, RN, DC, DACBR, M.Med.Ed. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- M Chiro Med Daniel Koller, Zurich (perspective of trainees)

with the external evaluation of the postgraduate education programme.

The responsible organisation submitted its self-assessment end of August 2023.

The group of experts held a round table discussion with the representatives of the programme and the academy on 25.06.2024.

The group of experts submitted their assessment of compliance with the quality standards on 02.08.2024.

The responsible organisation commented on the assessments of the quality standards on 26.09.2024.

AAQ finalised the evaluation of the programme on 3rd of October 2024.

3. Evaluation of the quality standards

The content and order of the standards follow the concept of the quality circle and are organised accordingly in 4 quality areas: Training objectives, concept, implementation and quality assurance.

Quality area I: Education objectives

Standard 1: Fundamentals and objectives of postgraduate education

The responsible organizations and professional associations facilitate comprehensive, responsible and efficient postgraduate education that is geared to the needs of trainees.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Catalog of learning objectives/competence lists

The catalog is defined according to the 7 CanMEDS roles and divided into general and specific learning outcomes for postgraduate education in chiropractic. (see attached documents Learning Outcomes and Profiles Chiropractic Medicine)

Learning objectives

The seven competencies consist of expert performance, communication, collaboration, management, community performance, scholarship and professionalism. The following summary describes the General Learning Outcomes (GLO) and the Specific Learning Outcomes (SLO) for each of these competences:

• Expert performance: Assistants apply the appropriate knowledge, understanding, clinical and procedural skills, and professional attitude to provide effective, patient-centered care.
a. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge and skills according to the current standards of the profession.
b. Demonstrate appropriate use of diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive strategies in an evidence-based format wherever possible.
c. Provide effective and ethical patient care.
d. Evaluate the quality and results of the treatment.
e. Find the necessary information quickly, evaluate it effectively and apply it appropriately.

• Communication: Assistants promote the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchange before, during and after chiropractic treatment.
a. Establish an appropriate therapeutic relationship with patients.
b. Listen carefully and gather relevant information effectively.
c. Discuss and explain chiropractic and medical information accurately, effectively and appropriately with patients and their families.
d. Report appropriately on patient cases in oral and written form.

• Collaboration: Assistants work effectively as part of a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.
a. They consult effectively with other chiropractors and members of other health professions.

b. Involve other chiropractors and members of other health professions as appropriate.
c. Provide appropriate collegial advice.
d. Actively support effective interdisciplinary collaboration for optimal patient care.

• Management: Assistants demonstrate that they are an integral part of the Swiss healthcare system by applying sustainable treatments, making decisions on the allocation of resources and contributing to the effectiveness of the healthcare system.
a. Establish an appropriate balance between professional responsibility and personal development.
b. Work effectively and efficiently in the Swiss healthcare system.
c. Use the available healthcare resources sensibly.
d. Apply information technologies to optimize patient care and lifelong learning.

• Community Performance: Assistants take responsibility and use their expertise and influence to promote the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations.
a. Assess disease-causing factors and draw up appropriate treatment-/ prevention plans.
b. Contribute to the health of patients and the community.
c. Acting in accordance with the relevant legal provisions.
d. Act appropriately in the event of incidents in healthcare.

• Scholarship: Assistants demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning and to the creation, dissemination, application and implementation of chiropractic knowledge.
a. Critically evaluate chiropractic information and apply it to appropriate clinical situations.
b. Contribute to the development of their professional and scientific knowledge.
c. Regularly critically evaluate their own knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior.
d. Develop and maintain a personal training plan.
e. Contribute to the education of students, colleagues, patients and others involved in healthcare.

• Professionalism: Assistants demonstrate that they are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society by applying ethical practices, professional regulations and high standards of personal conduct.
a. Provide quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion.
b. Demonstrate appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behavior.
c. Recognize the limits of their personal knowledge and act within these limits.
d. Perform their activities consistently in accordance with the ethical standards of the profession.
e. Promote professional autonomy so that chiropractors can act in the best interests of the patient and the public.

Postgraduate education

The duration of the education program is at least 30 calendar months. The program is structured in three parts and consists of a practical part in at least two different chiropractors' practices (2 years full-time), a hospital rotation (4 months full-time) and an accompanying curricular part at the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic in Bern (≈ 230 hours).

a) Practical part:

The first part is the work under supervision in various practices of principals (trainers). These are experienced chiropractors whose status has been approved by the Board of ChiroSuisse. Assistants work for 2 years with at least 2 different principals at 2 different practice addresses. Working in a stable working environment with regular patient appointments and a well-organized practice routine enables assistants to develop skills in individual patient management and patient care and to assume responsibility in these areas during the duration of the programme.

The second part of the practical part is a 4-month hospital rotation (full-time) in a hospital or institution recognized by the Board of ChiroSuisse. Job sharing to divide the time between the hospital rotation and working under a principal is possible, but of course extends the minimum duration of 4 months accordingly. Hospital rotations are possible in the following departments:

• Rheumatology / Orthopaedics
• Physical medicine and rehabilitation
• Sports medicine
• Neurology / Neurosurgery
• Internal medicine / Emergency room care

The hospital rotation builds on the following competencies and objective learning content:

• Improved interprofessional communication and a deeper understanding of medical and paramedical professional content.
• Consequently, improved mutual cooperation with partners in the Swiss healthcare system
• Safe recognition, diagnosis and treatment of uncomplicated musculoskeletal disorders
• Extended diagnostic expertise in complex, overlapping and polymorbid clinical pictures in collaboration with specialists from the individual disciplines.
• Safe recognition of conditions that can be treated with and by chiropractic, safe exclusion of similar conditions that require non- chiropractic treatment.
• Increased confidence in the treatment and management of patients
• Expansion of applied knowledge about prevention and prophylaxis of musculoskeletal disorders.

b) Curricular part:

Theoretical lessons take place once a week at the academy. This includes lectures as well as skills training. The lessons are divided into 3 modules over 2 years: Basic Module (November-December, Module 1 January-November and Module 2 January-November). The individual blocks last 2.5 hours each and take place in the morning and afternoon. An asterisk indicates that a course is held as a double unit with a duration of 5 hours/one full day. The minimum attendance is 90% and all assignments and exams must be completed. There is currently no optional content. The specific contents of the units are listed below.

Below is the list of current modules with a total of 53 topics:

Basic Module:

- Introduction and welcome to the Academy
- Critical reading of chiropractic and medical literature
- The Swiss healthcare system and the history of chiropractic in Switzerland
- E-Health Switzerland - Electronic patient dossier
- Prescription modalities
- Chiropractic tariff in Switzerland
- Communication: a clinical approach

- Professionalism and ethics
- Legal basis and responsibilities and duties of the radiation protection expert
- Indications, risks and benefits of SMT

Module 1:

- Orthopaedics of the upper and lower extremities
- Risk Day: Medical and legal insights into the Swiss healthcare system for chiropractors
- DDX from hip/groin pain
- Interprofessional relationships
- Clinical Psychology*
- Review meeting on the general principles of radiation protection
- Diagnosis and treatment of patients with lower back or pelvic pain
- Sports physiology
- Sports medicine part 1 and 2*
- OSCE in group format*
- Knee pain and orthopaedic DDX, case demonstrations
- Hip pain and orthopaedic DDX, case demonstrations
- Radiology of the extremities / Interesting cases from chiropractic practices*
- Professional identity
- MINI CEX
- Cervicogenic dizziness*
- Workshop on thoracic and abdominal examinations
- Treatment of the pediatric patient, Part I and II. *
- Peer teaching*
- Radiology of the spine / Interesting cases from chiropractic practices *

Module 2:

- Clinical nutrition
- Rehabilitation and home exercises
- Vertebral instability: Theoretical and clinical aspects
- General principles of radiation protection
- Pharmacology
- OSCE Formative Group Training*
- Advanced imaging of the extremities*
- MINI CEX*
- Pediatrics, Practical application
- Treatment modalities in daily practice / patients' preferred treatments*
- Opening and management of a chiropractic practice*
- Chiropractic orthopaedics of the lower extremities*
- Emergency management*
- Peer teaching *
- Psychosocial pain therapy *
- DDX of cervicobrachialgia
- Psychosomatic medicine
- Geriatrics
- Shoulder pain and orthopaedic DDX

Skills courses:

In addition, 4 further full-day courses in treatment and examination techniques are held each year. These courses deepen the application of various practical techniques unique to chiropractic, allow skills to be continuously adapted to different patient groups and improve the flow of previously trained step-by-step assessment and treatment procedures during the development of the assistant over the course of two years.

Continuous Education Congress:

The Academy and ChiroSuisse organize a three-day congress once a year, which is mandatory for all ChiroSuisse members and assistants in terms of further education and training.

Adjustment options

It is possible to complete the program part-time or to interrupt it. Those assistants who complete the program part-time will need 5 years instead of the usual 2.5 years to complete all requirements. The maximum time to complete the program is limited to 60 months. The working hours of assistants who work 100% may not exceed 35 hours per week and may not be less than 25 hours per week. This is set out in the document "Regulations for principals and assistants".

The possibility of gaining experience abroad and having this time credited towards the program is explicitly not given, as the program is specifically designed to acquire the title of specialist chiropractor in Switzerland.

Absences and vacations are regulated in the "Regulations for principals and assistants" under Article 7.

External assessment

The experts note that the continuing education programme is generally of high quality - even of outstanding quality by international standards. The Academy in fact facilitates a comprehensive, responsible and efficient postgraduate education.

It has been noticed that there seems to be a difference between the trainees who have already completed their basic chiropractic education at the University of Zurich and those who have been educated abroad. It was discussed that given their diverse backgrounds it is challenging to get them to the same qualification level during the postgraduate training. It is an ongoing task to transform this situation of diversity into an opportunity of mutual learning in order to make the postgraduate programme even more robust. As this is a challenging matter, it might be a good idea to seek external professional advice to determine measures that could be suitable. There might also be an element of creating a commen culture as a group from two distinct educational backgrounds.

Overall, the number of trainees is still manageable, which is good news for the ambient condition for learning and training.

While the trainees conduct their practical training at locations throughout Switzerland, they all have to travel to Bern to attend the theoretical lessons and courses. Depending on the travelling route, this can be very time-consuming and tiring.

More online or hybrid lessons of theoretical input could help in the future. The academy announced that they have already plans here – the experts would like to support efforts in this direction.

The standard is substantially compliant.

Recommendation 1: The academy should strive to facilitate a better integration of the trainees that were not already educated at the university of Zurich into the postgraduate education programme and cohort.

Recommendation 2: The academy should enable more online course formats (where suitable) to relieve trainees from travelling hours.

Statement responsible organisation

Ad. Recom. 1) The academy is aware of the different educational routes and that the levels might be different in different areas. It will be one of the areas that will be looked at during the next curriculum revision. This might be remedied by looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the groups. One idea is to offer specific courses for each group.

Ad. Recom. 2) This is considered for the revision of the curriculum.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 2: Responsibilities and competencies

The responsible organizations and professional associations define the responsibilities for the postgraduate education programme transparently within their area of responsibility. These include authority, organization, coordination and implementation of the postgraduate education programme.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Responsibilities of the organization and the professional association

The professional association is the Swiss Chiropractic Association (ChiroSuisse for short). The responsible organization is the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic.

Process of awarding titles

ChiroSuisse is responsible for awarding the postgraduate education title.

The "Regulations on the chiropractic postgraduate education examination" govern the examination and the title of specialist chiropractor. As noted in Article 6 "Admission": In order to be admitted to the postgraduate examination in chiropractic, the candidate must have the following

- have successfully completed chiropractic training at a Swiss or foreign university of chiropractic recognized by the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA,
- have passed the federal examination in chiropractic
- have worked full-time for at least two years as an assistant to two different chiropractors recognized as principals by the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic,
- have taken part in the two-year postgraduate programme for assistants (organized by the SAC) during this time,

- after passing the federal examination, has completed at least four months of full-time or, in the case of part-time, correspondingly extended clinical assistance at a hospital or practice recognized by the SAC,
- have completed at least four months of full-time clinical assistance or an equivalent period on a part-time basis in a clinic or practice recognized by the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic after passing the federal examination,
- have passed the examination in radiation protection and radiological technology,
- have registered for postgraduate education examination within 60 months of the start of the internship,

The applications for the examination are forwarded to the examination board together with the assistants' complete dossiers. The examination board informs the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic of its decision on the admission of the candidates concerned.

The Swiss Academy of Chiropractic confirms the admission or non-admission of candidates.

Registration for the postgraduate examination is regulated in Article 7 of the "Regulations on the chiropractic postgraduate examination". Candidates must register for the postgraduate examination with the SAC secretariat by the official deadline. Proof that the admission requirements have been met must be submitted with the application (criteria in accordance with Article 6).

Both partial examinations (written and practical) must be passed in order for the postgraduate education to be validated. A grade of "pass" or "fail" is awarded for each of the two partial examinations.

The grades are discussed in the grading conference with the Director of the Academy, the Examination Board for Specialist Chiropractor Formation and its President. The President of the Examination Commission informs the candidates of the result of the examination in writing. Each assistant receives notification by post of the result of the examination (pass or fail for the practical and written parts).

Candidates who have passed the postgraduate education examination receive the diplomas "Fachchiropraktorin / Fachchiropraktor", "chiropratico specialista" and "chiropraticien spécialiste". ChiroSuisse issues the diplomas on the recommendation of the Examination Commission.

Candidates who have not passed the examination can register for an examination interview with the President of the Examination Commission or a person appointed by him. The request to view the dossier of the failed partial examination must be submitted to the secretariat of the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic within the statutory period and after the interview with the President of the Examination Commission (or a person appointed by him).

Assistants who have not taken the examination will be informed of the legal channels available to them. Assistants must submits the application for the postgraduate education examination within 60 months of the start of the residency period.

Revision of the postgraduate education program

The Swiss Academy of Chiropractic is responsible for planning the postgraduate education program, regularly evaluating it and, if necessary, revising it. It coordinates and leads the site visits in connection with planned new postgraduate education centers and the re-evaluation of existing postgraduate education centers.

Decision-making body for the creation and revocation of specialist titles

The Swiss Chiropractic Association is the only chiropractic association that awards the title of chiropractic specialist recognized by the FOPH. The Swiss Academy of Chiropractic is responsible for the creation, content and examination of the Swiss specialist titles "Fachchiropraktorin / Fachchiropraktor", "chiropratico specialista" and "chiropraticien spécialiste". In agreement with the Swiss Chiropractic Association, it coordinates the necessary skills, competencies and tasks of the chiropractic profession in Switzerland.

Criteria for postgraduate education institution and their assistants

The Swiss Chiropractic Association (ChiroSuisse) is responsible for the revision of the postgraduate education mandate and the postgraduate education program, the recognition of the postgraduate education bodies (clients) (Art. 25, para. 1 lit. h MedBG) and the awarding of the postgraduate education title (Art. 20 MedBG).

The "Regulations for principals and assistants" set out both the formal and professional criteria for practical education in the practices. Recognition as a principal requires a corresponding application (see "Principal Application Form"), in which the required criteria are listed and must be supported by evidence. Accompanying document "Tasks and Duties of a Principal". Each application is checked by the SAC to ensure that it meets the formal criteria and is then forwarded to the Executive Board of the Swiss Chiropractic Association. The Executive Board makes the decision on recognition as a Principal.

Examination regulations

The postgraduate education examination is regulated in the "Regulations on the Chiropractic Postgraduate Education Examination" and the radiation protection examination is regulated in the "Examination Regulations for Radiation Protection".

Postgraduate education examination: The WBP regulates the postgraduate education examination. The timing of the examination is regulated in Article 5. Both the written and the practical part must be passed. Assessment criteria, passing and failing the examination are regulated in Articles 13-14-14 of the WBP. The WBP also regulates the repetition of the postgraduate education examination in the event of failure.

The duties of the Examination Board and the Chairman are also set out in the WBP regulations (Article 3.4).

Radiation protection examination: The federal radiation protection examination must be passed and is a prerequisite for admission to the further training examination. The examination is regulated in the document "Examination regulations for radiation protection". This regulates the organization of the examination (Art. 4), admission to the examination (Art. 5), registration (Art. 6), type, duration and content of the examination (Art. 7), assessment (Art. 8), passing the examination (Art. 9), notification of the results (Art. 10), the diploma (Art. 11), failure to pass the examination (Art. 12), the legal options in the event of failure to pass the examination (Art. 13) and the examination fees (Art. 14).

The tasks of the Radiation Protection Examination Board and its chairman are set out in the "Radiation Protection Examination Regulations" (Article 3).

External assessment

The academy has defined the responsibilities for the postgraduate education programme in Chiropractic transparently, including authority, organization, coordination and implementation of the programme.

The standard is fully compliant.

Statement responsible organisation

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AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Quality area II: Concept

Standard 3: Duration and structure of the postgraduate education
The responsible organizations and professional associations determine the structure (structures and processes) for the postgraduate education program. They adopt the specifications for the duration of the postgraduate education program.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Contents of the postgraduate program

Parallel to their assistantship and hospital rotation, assistants complete 47.5 days of theoretical instruction at the Academy, divided into 3 modules. There are defined learning objectives for each lecture and each practical course within the 3 modules (see above). The ChiroSuisse Curriculum Committee is responsible for developing the content of the teaching in collaboration with the Director of the Academy.

Duration of postgraduate program

The postgraduate education program lasts at least 30 months. (Medical Professions Ordinance, MedBV of June 27, 2007 and Postgraduate Education Ordinance of May 2022 Chapter 1 Article 3) and must be completed within 60 months.
Absences due to military service, maternity leave and illness are also taken into account if they do not exceed eight weeks per year ("Regulations for principals and assistants", chapters 2 and 7).

Structure of the postgraduate program

The postgraduate education regulations govern the postgraduate education program (Chapter 1, Article 3).

Milestones of the program:

a) Assistance period of 24 months under the supervision and guidance of at least two chiropractors (principals) recognized by the Academy.

b) Modules, seminars and workshops organized by SAC as well as assignments, self-study and preparation of material. Modules are organized once a week. Attendance is expected for 90% of all activities. Planned absences can be compensated in consultation with the director. A one-week elective course is held annually for assistants who still have to fulfill the requirements to be admitted to the radiation protection examination.
c) Scientific / research work according to the guidelines of the SAC.
d) In addition to the 24-month residency period, there is a clinical rotation of at least four months in a hospital/institution approved by the SAC.
e) Annual congress of ChiroSuisse
f) Examination in radiation protection and X-ray technology.

Requirements a) - f) must be fulfilled by the assistants and confirmed by the Director of the Academy in order to be admitted to the postgraduate education examination.

Responsibilities of the principal and assistants

The document "Regulations for principals and assistants" governs the cooperation between principals and assistants. The role of the principal is to supervise the work of the assistants and to allow them to benefit from their own experience and skills. (Regulations for principals and assistants chapter 3).

• supporting the personal and professional development of assistants, which is necessary to become a licensed specialist chiropractor.

• preparation for the postgraduate education examination.

• the introduction of assistants to the Swiss healthcare system.

• weekly meetings and lessons of at least two hours (on the basis of a 100% contract).

• the semi-annual assessment of the assistants using the questionnaire provided and evaluated by the SAC.

• Instruction and training in the x-ray and adjustment technique of patients in accordance with radiation protection regulations, including the active production of 50 x-rays by the assistants. If there is no X-ray machine on site, principals must contract with an accredited institution to guide, instruct and supervise the assistants in taking 50 X-rays. In all cases, the principals act as supervisors by monitoring the logbook of the radiographs taken by the assistants.

Creditability of other subject areas

Not applicable to chiropractic. There is only one specialist title.

External assessment

The duration and structure of the programme are clear.

With regard to the requirements for X-rays, the expert group recommends adapting the wording: instead of a specific number, it might be better to write: sufficient expertise in performing and interpreting X-rays.

The standard is fully compliant.

Statement responsible organisation

As a prerequisite to sit the Radioprotection Exam, a “sufficient expertise” can not be assesed as an admission criterium. A number is easily verifiable, the requirement as such is in line with the requirements for other medical specialists.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 4: Content of the postgraduate program

The responsible organizations and professional societies facilitate the development of the required competencies (professional, social, personal) in accordance with the CanMEDS roles. There are guidelines on the competencies required of trainees and their assessment. Further training expands and deepens the skills acquired during university training.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Learning objectives

Article 3 of the WBO describes the overarching objectives of postgraduate education as follows:

• Deepening and expanding the knowledge and skills acquired during training.
• Gain experience and confidence in diagnostics, therapy, rehabilitation and prevention.
• Deepening reverence for life.
• Independence in emergency situations.
• Deepening the measures for the prevention and avoidance of health problems
• Economical use of diagnostic and therapeutic agents.
• Deepening inter- and intradisciplinary cooperation with colleagues and all other healthcare institutions
• Lifelong learning

Reference to CanMED rolls

The general learning objectives correspond to the CanMED roles (see document "Profiles Chiropractic Medicine").

• Expert: Assistants apply the appropriate knowledge, understanding, clinical and procedural skills and professional attitude to provide effective patient-centered care.

•Communicator: Assistants promote the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchange before, during and after chiropractic treatment.

• Collaborator: Assistants work effectively as part of a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.

•Manager: Assistants demonstrate that they are an integral part of the Swiss healthcare system by applying sustainable treatments, making decisions on the allocation of resources and contributing to the effectiveness of the healthcare system.

• Health Advocate: Assistants take responsibility and use their expertise and influence to promote the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations.

• Scholar: Assistants demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning and to the creation, dissemination, application and implementation of chiropractic knowledge.

• Professional: Assistants demonstrate that they are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society by applying ethical practices, professional regulations and high standards of personal conduct.

Instruments for determining the status quo and measuring the progress of assistants

Most assessments are designed to facilitate reflective practice and the integration of research findings into practice. They include not only a critical learning report, but also structured portfolio reports and validated forms to assess assistants during history taking and examination. Assessments are conducted on an ongoing basis between principals and assistants as a "formative" assessment.
A summative written format is used for the radiation protection examination. The examination takes place once a year.

Final examination

The postgraduate examination consists of two parts: the written examination, which is predominantly case-based, with written short to medium answers over a 4-hour time frame. The practical exam is an OSLER (Objective Structured Long Examination Record) exam with 6 stations of 30 minutes each, including one station with advanced diagnostic imaging and case management.

Strategy for harmonizing the content of education and formation

Meetings are held at least every two months with the head of teaching/teaching clinic Chiropractic Medicine UZH. In addition, an exchange between the two institutions is possible at any time if required. An exchange with other educational institutions (e.g. IFEC, AECC) takes place at international congresses or stakeholder meetings.

External assessment

The references to the CanMed Roles are there, but could be made more explicit in the curriculum and tangible for the trainees.

It was discussed during the Round Table that there might also exist content-wise major overlaps between basic and postgraduate chiropractic education. At the base of a postgraduate programme in Chiropractic should be the practical development into a professional independent consultation including treatment of patients and get into the every-day-life of really dealing and working with patients in a clinical setting. To further develop the coordination and at the same time the clear distinction of basic and postgraduate chiropractic education is an ongoing task for the academy. The emphasis lies on the practical, clinical parts of the programme. The promotion of problem-oriented development of knowledge by the assistants themselves should be emphasized and increased. Implementing the ‘Flipped Classroom’ approach is recommended,

In this context the hospital rotations as a mandatory part of the programme was discussed as well and questioned if they really make sense (in particular for the trainees with a basic chiropractic background from the university of Zurich). It still might be a chance for networking with other relevant medical specialists, especially orthopaedic surgeons.

Adverse events are excellent learning opportunities for trainees in their postgraduate education – a system should be developed in order to take advantage of this and emphasize the role of learning within the profession as a clear aim.

The standard is substantially compliant.

Recommendation 3: The academy should make the competencies contained within the CanMeds more explicit in the curriculum and for the trainees.

Recommendation 4: The academy should integrate more practical clinical content into the postgraduate programme – also in order to distinguish it clearly from the basic medical education programme and to create the appropriate profile for postgraduate education in chiropractic.

Recommendation 5: The academy should develop a system that enables trainees to use adverse events as learning opportunities.

Statement responsible organisation

We agree with all of the recommendations.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Quality area III: Implementation

Standard 5: Recognition of education centers

The responsible organizations and professional associations have defined personnel, structural and professional criteria for the approval and regular review of training centres.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Recognition criteria for education centers and trainers (here principals)

Training center:

A written application to the Suisse Academy of Chiropractic is required for recognition as a principal. The application for recognition as a principal is assessed by the Board of ChiroSuisse. The following points must be fulfilled.

• Applicants must be active members of Chirosuisse.

• Applicants must have been working full-time in Switzerland for at least 5 years under their own ZSN number or K number. A copy of the confirmation must be available
• A copy of the practice plan with a treatment room designated for the assistants must be available.
• An assistant may only be employed if he/she has successfully passed the federal examination.
• A list of the equipment available to the assistants must be available
• Confirmation of ownership of an X-ray system or contract/agreement with an X- ray institute

The office must have a sufficient number of patients to meet the requirements that assistants can care for between 60 and 125 patients per week in the first year of training and between 80 and 150 patients per week in the second year of training.

Principal:

The principal is responsible for the right postgraduate education of assistants and must encourage them to practice as taught and recommended by the SAC. Principals receive the documents required for their work from the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic. He/she must supervise the work of the assistants and allow them to benefit from his/her own professional experience and skills. This includes:

- The principal supports the personal and professional development of the assistant required to become a specialist chiropractor;
- Supports assistants in their preparation for the postgraduate examination
- Introduces the assistants to the Swiss healthcare system
- Holds weekly meetings (case discussions, technical, etc.) of at least two hours (based on a 100% contract)
- Carries out the semi-annual evaluations of the assistants using the questionnaire provided by the SAC.
- Provides introduction and training in X-ray technology (in accordance with radiation protection regulations); assistants must have taken 50 X- rays during their training. The principal monitors the logbook.
- The principal must be present in the practice for at least 80% of the actual working hours. In the remaining time, he/she or a deputy announced in advance must be available by telephone and be present in the practice within 30 minutes.
- Principals are obliged to adhere to the conditions set out in the "Postgraduate education regulations". The parties to the employment contract may agree better conditions for the assistants. The SAC must receive a copy of the employment contract before it comes into force.
- The Principal must participate in the activities of the Academy (teaching, working groups or administration) and be available as an examiner when required.
- The principal must attend all relevant meetings to which the Academy invites and undergo at least four hours of further training per year.
A workshop for principals is held annually as part of the annual congress.

Concepts of the education centers

Within the framework conditions set out here, the education centers have the opportunity to design their concepts according to their circumstances, e.g. practice size, equipment, internal processes, etc.

Re-evaluation of the education centers

The principal and his/her practices are reviewed at least every 6 years by peer evaluation teams for the appropriateness of training, the workplace and quality through pre-announced visits (peer review).

The principals to be evaluated are informed in advance by these teams and a questionnaire is also sent in advance to ensure a smooth evaluation process. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in a reprimand and/or may lead to the withdrawal of principal status.

Regulation of external training periods

At least 80 days of hospital rotation in the fields of orthopaedics, rheumatology, physical medicine and neurology. The participating institutions have signed a contract for this in order to be part of the training process of the assistants. An employment contract has been concluded if it meets the minimum requirements of the SAC model contract and all the provisions of these regulations. If the contract is concluded between an assistant and a legal entity, it must specify who acts as the assistant's responsible specialist. The SAC must receive a copy of the employment contract before it comes into force.

External assessment

The academy has defined regulations to become a principal as well as regular reviews (every 6 years) and regular feedback (from the trainees) for the principals.

Not integrated in this scheme are the sites of hospital-rotations.

As there is a wide range of treatment methods that chiropractors may apply in their practices and with patients, the academy should advocate, as much as possible, the use of evidence based methods in clinical practices where trainees are educated. Taking the role of a principal is key and a huge responsibility for educating future chiropractors – therefore the academy should support them as much as possible and honour their important work. A continuous and close exchange between the academy and principals regarding postgraduate content and teaching in practice is recommendable. Guidance and professional criteria for principals in executing their tasks of educating chiropractors on a postgraduate level might be helpful.

The academy should also endeavour to ensure that trainees are paid appropriately by the principals. Similarly, it is desirable that the trainees should be educated in an environment where the use of electronic filing systems is self-evident where documentation is logged digitally.

The standard is substantially compliant.

Recommendation 6: The academy should ensure a professional attitude among their principals regarding the use of evidence based methods in their treatments.

Recommendation 7: The use of electronic filing systems should be a requirement in a practice in order to take in trainees.

Recommendation 8: The academy should encourage that the principals pay a decent salary for the trainees.

Statement responsible organisation

Ad. Recom. 6, 7: we agree with the statements

Ad. Recom. 8: The minimal salary is mandated in the model contract that was revised in 2021.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 6: Continuous assessment

The training program ensures that trainees receive structured feedback on their learning progress several times a year. This relates to the fulfillment of the learning objectives and in particular to the ability to care for patients independently and competently in the chosen specialty.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Evaluation of the assistants

The assessment of assistants is an integral part of the Academy's training program based on job-related self-assessments and external assessments:

- Self-evaluation of own progress by the assistants
- The principals assess by means of structured feedback as part of the Mini-CEX, which is held eight times a year on a mandatory basis. During direct observation, the areas of competence are observed and assessed in accordance with CanMed: Professionalism, medical specialist, communication, collaboration, leadership/management, medical expertise, postgraduate education and training. This is followed by direct feedback and a joint target agreement that can be reviewed.
- Weekly meetings (at least 2 hours for a 100% position) are used for indirect assessment (e.g. patient referrals, case and X-ray reviews or doctor/referral reports)
- In larger practices/training centers, feedback can be provided via various sources (multisource feedback) - for a broader assessment of the quality of work over a longer period of time.
- Formative assessments with feedback at the academy by means of: patient examination days, technique days, group OSCE, peer teaching and mini CEX day.
- Summative assessments: Critical appraisal of literature and research projects, practical examination in radiology, federal radiation protection examination and specialist examination (written and practical using OSLER).

Evaluation

- In the group OSCE, the assistants take part in an exam-like organized online exam in which cases are presented and all assistants answer questions, assess x-rays and create treatment plans for the patients presented. They then discuss the cases in the group and receive feedback on their answers from their peers.
- In the peer-teaching course, the assistants have to present complex cases to their cohort and discuss them with their peers.

External assessment

The goals are defined here and the trainees do receive appropriate feedback.

The standard is fully compliant.

Statement responsible organisation

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AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Quality area IV: Quality assurance

Standard 7: Evaluation

Quality-relevant data is regularly collected, evaluated and used for quality development.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Exchange between education center and principals.

Instructor in postgraduate education at the academy:

The lectures at the Academy are evaluated after the courses via Surveymonkey. The questionnaire is sent to the assistants shortly after the lecture. The assistants complete the questionnaire anonymously. After the answers have been collected, the questionnaire is evaluated by the academy director. The lecturers receive this evaluation. If changes, updates or adjustments are necessary, measures are discussed with the lecturers (see documents Evaluation_Mini_CEX and Evaluation_Lecturer).

Principals:

Principals and their practices are reviewed at least every 6 years through pre-announced visits by a peer evaluation team. The peer evaluation teams send the questions and the questionnaire to the principals to be evaluated in advance to ensure a smooth evaluation process. If the evaluation shows that the requirements are not met, the principal status can be withdrawn.

The evaluation team visits the Principal for approximately 2 hours and then provides verbal feedback and answers the questionnaire. The questionnaire can then be returned to the academy either via Surveymonkey or in paper form. If action needs to be taken, the Academy Principal will contact the Principal concerned directly.

Evaluation of the program or the education center by assistants

Assistants evaluate their principals twice, once at mid-term and once at the end of the contract. The questionnaires are recorded using Surveymonkey and then evaluated by the Academy. If measures need to be taken, the academy director contacts the principal concerned directly.

Evaluation of the program by alumni

Former assistants are invited to give their feedback. This helps to improve the program. In 2022, the representative of the assistants collected their feedback and the feedback of the alumni on the program. The Academy has started to integrate their comments into the program.

External assessment

There are some evaluations done here – but so far not of the curriculum as a whole. As the trainees themselves are the most important stakeholders in continuing education, they should be included in all curricular revision discussions.

The standard is substantially compliant.

Recommendation 9: The academy should include trainees - and in general collect and use their feedback more systematically - for curriculum revision and development.

Statement responsible organisation

We aggree with the recommendation.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 8: Complaints body

An independent complaints body is in place and decides on complaints in all areas.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Independent complaints office

The Academy is the first point of contact for assistants and principals. The ChiroSuisse Complaints Commission for Postgraduate Education Titles forms the independent complaints body WBO Article 7. The ChiroSuisse Board elects the Commission, which is made up of at least 2 ChiroSuisse Board members and a lawyer. The commission shall act as an appeals body pursuant to Art. 25 para. 1 lit. j and 55 MedBG.

The Complaints Commission for Postgraduate Education Titles assesses complaints based on Art. 7 WBO):

a. SAC ruling on the organization and recognition of postgraduate education
b. Decision of the examination commission regarding non-admission to the further training examination
c. Failure to pass the postgraduate examination
d. Order of the SAC concerning the award of the postgraduate education title
e. Recognition of training centers
f. Order of the head of a training center

The right of appeal to the Federal Administrative Court is reserved

Complaints process

Assistants and principals are encouraged to contact the Academy in the event of any problems. If this does not lead to a fruitful solution, the ChiroSuisse Complaints Committee will be called in.

In the event of a failed examination, the assistants may sit with the President, or a person appointed by him/her in accordance with the examination documents in order to inspect the failed examination.

The candidates concerned may lodge an appeal against the decisions of the Examination Board with the Appeals Board for the postgrduate education examination within the statutory period

The appeal, which must be substantiated in writing and accompanied by an application, must be submitted to the SAC for the attention of the Appeals Commission.

Arbitration board

The Ethics Committee acts as the arbitration board. Its members are elected by ChiroSuisse.

External assessment

There are clearly defined ways to deal with complaints.

None-the-less, trainees do not necessarily know how to proceed if they have a problem.

The experts therefore, recommend that the academy publishes on their website the relevant information regarding how cases of complaints are processed.

The standard is substantially compliant.

Recommendation 10: The academy should publish the relevant information regarding complaints on their website.

Statement responsible organisation

We agree with the recommendation.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 9: Material changes to the postgraduate education program

The accreditation body is informed of any material changes to the postgraduate education program.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Exchange channels between the responsible organization and the Federal Administration

There is an annual exchange with the Health Professions Division of the FOPH. There is also an exchange with those responsible for the accreditation of the course. We also maintain an interdisciplinary exchange via the FOPH's Primary Health Care Forum.

Communication of substantial changes

No substantial changes have been made in recent years (since the last accreditation). A review is carried out annually by the Curriculum Committee together with the Director.

External assessment

The statements of the academy in the self-assessment are transparent and comprehensible.

The standard is fully compliant.

Statement responsible organisation

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AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Quality area V: (Further) development

Standard 10: Networking and exchange

The responsible organizations network with relevant comparable stakeholders and are in regular contact with them. In addition, interdisciplinary exchange with professional groups is actively promoted.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

National and international exchange

ChiroSuisse is a member of the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) and the European Chiropractor's Union (ECU). ChiroSuisse is currently represented on the Board of Directors of the WFC for the European region by the former President of ChiroSuisse. ChiroSuisse is currently represented on the General Council of the ECU by the Vice President ChiroSuisse. Both the WFC and the ECU regularly organize international chiropractic conferences, which are attended by official delegations as well as many members of ChiroSuisse.

Interdisciplinary and interprofessional exchange

ChiroSuisse is a member of a number of interdisciplinary and professional organizations in Switzerland (see list in the appendix).

In addition to national/international chiropractors, speakers, workshop instructors and guests from related disciplines (e.g. neurosurgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, ophthalmologists, biomechanics, physiotherapists, etc.) are invited to the annual congress (Chirosuisse CE Convention). In 2021, a joint conference of ChiroSuisse and the SPS (Swiss Pain Society) took place for the first time. The congress is part of the ChiroSuisse postgraduate education program and participation is mandatory for ChiroSuisse members.

Extract of memberships:

Name	Description	Frequency
Blue professions round table	Informal platform of the medical professions (MedBG)	Presidents and CEOs meet twice a year
Swiss Association of Liberal Professions (SVFB)	Association of all liberal professions in CH	ChiroSuisse is a member, CEO is a member of the board, meetings 6x per year
Healthy Switzerland Alliance	Association of 40 healthcare organizations	ChiroSuisse is a member, CEO is a member of the board, meetings 6x per year
Digital Transformation Alliance	Association of 23 healthcare organizations	ChiroSuisse is a member
Interprofessio-nelle Arbeitsgemeinscha ft eHealth (IPAG ehealth)	Associations of healthcare professionals	ChiroSuisse is a member
Public Health Switzerland	Public Health Switzerland is the professional association of public health professionals	ChiroSuisse is a member, CEO is a member of the advisory board, congress 1x/J, several events / year
Swiss Society for Health Policy (SGGP)	The SGGP is the independent platform in Switzerland for all topics, questions and ideas relating to healthcare policy and healthcare provision	ChiroSuisse is a member, participates in meetings 1-2/year
Platform Interprofessionality	The most important partners in outpatient primary care are represented on the platform	ChiroSuisse is a member
Primary Health Care Forum	Platform under the direction of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)	ChiroSuisse is a member, one meeting per year
European Chiropractors' Union (ECU)	The ECU is an association of 22 European national chiropractic associations	ChiroSuisse is a member, GC meetings 2x/J, working groups such as the Executive

		Strategy Group, of which the CEO is a member
World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC)	The World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) is a federation of 90 national associations	ChiroSuisse is a member and attends the meetings once a year
Medical Professions Commission (Mebeko)	As an extra-parliamentary commission, the Mebeko has both an official and an advisory function in the area of university medical professions	ChiroSuisse is represented by one person each in the Training and Postgraduate Education departments

External assessment

The experts commend that the networking and exchange activities of the academy at national and international level are excellent.

The standard is fully compliant.

Statement responsible organisation

Thank you!

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 11: Learning methodology

The didactic approaches for teaching the skills of the postgraduate education program are continuously adapted and correspond to the current standard of subject-specific postgraduate education. They encourage assistants to take responsibility for their postgraduate education. In addition, the responsible organizations and professional associations have a training concept for trainers.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Professional requirements for principals

The professional requirements for principals are set out in the 'Regulations for principals and assistants' and in the 'Postgraduate education regulations': Postgraduate training title and at least five years' experience as a chiropractor in independent clinical practice. As a principal, you are also obliged to be available as a lecturer and/or examiner for the Academy. Lecturers from related fields are also employed. These are often people who work at universities and have several years of experience in their specialist field and in medical training.

The training consists of different teaching formats: clinical training in outpatient practice, clinical training in hospital rotations, each with feedback mechanisms. The formalized parts of the curriculum take place as lectures or interactive workshops at the Academy's premises in Bern or via Zoom. Individual elements must be prepared by the assistants in the sense of a 'flipped classroom'. The individual modules are set out in writing with module descriptions, learning methods and learning objectives. Some practical small-group workshops also take place in the outpatient practices of ChiroSuisse members.

Networking of principals

Providers of postgraduate education, especially principals, can network during the official workshops for principals at the ChiroSuisse CE Convention as well as informally during the entire congress. As the assistants usually work in two outpatient practices at the same time, there is often an informal collegial exchange between two principals on different topics.

Training of principals

A few years ago, the Academy set itself the goal of 'Teach the Teacher'. For example, workshops for principals are held regularly as part of the annual ChiroSuisse CE Convention.

A substantial number of lecturers and principals at the Academy have access to UZH's university didactics through their employment in university education.

External assessment

As already mentioned above, the training of future chiropractors is an enormously important task. The respective didactic qualifications and development of the trainers are key. Therefore the expert group advocates a systematic framework to support and train the trainers. In doing so it might be helpful to look at the teach-the-teacher-training that is offered by the SIWF for their trainers in human medicine on a regular basis.

The standard is substantially compliant.

Recommendation 11: The academy should work more systematically on the specific didactic qualifications and further development of its trainers.

Statement responsible organisation

Ad. Recom. 11: this recommendation will be included as an additional aspect in the revision of the curriculum. In addition to the revison the mandatory peer evaluation every 6 years of Principals will be revised in the future.

AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

Standard 12: Competence-based postgraduate education

The responsible organizations and professional societies are taking the first steps towards the introduction of competency-based postgraduate education. There is a draft for the implementation of the concept of competency-based medical education (CBME). Education and training form a continuum.

Self-evaluation Swiss Academy of Chiropractic

Promotion and support of skills-based postgraduate education

PROFILES (Principal Relevant Objectives and Framework for Integrated Learning and Education Switzerland - Chiropractic Medicine) was developed as a mandate from the FOPH, ChiroSuisse and the Department of Chiropractic Medicine at the University of Zurich and adopted in September 2017. Analogous to the PROFILES of human medicine, this document presents the competence- based learning objectives in chiropractic medicine for university studies.

Revision of the postgraduate program

At a ChiroSuisse working group meeting, the creation of a joint curriculum revision group for education and training was discussed. This is to be formalized by autumn 2024 at the latest.

Development of the EPA for chiropractic-specific professional activities ("EPAs").

PROFILES of university education is the source document for EPA's in postgraduate education. Dr. Martin Wangler, DC MME, has already carried out initial further developments for chiropractic postgraduate education as part of his activities as head of postgraduate education centers (Orthopädie Sonnenhof Bern, Balgrist University Hospital Zurich). In addition, the Academy will be guided by the assistance and instructions for the specialist societies in the implementation of the SIWF EPA. If necessary, it will network and exchange information with medical societies that are already working on the implementation of EPAs.

Competence in medical education of the responsible persons

The management of the Academy has experience in the education and training of medical/healthcare professionals. Some members of ChiroSuisse have formalized additional training in medical education (Master of Medical Education from the University of Bern/University of Dundee), many years of experience as examination experts or as members of the international chiropractic accreditation body (ECCE). This specialist knowledge can be used in a targeted manner within the framework of working groups if required. The former heads of the Academy are also available as advisory experts if required.

Continuum between formation and postgraduate education

A formalized exchange takes place between the heads of the CM UZH degree program and the Academy at least every two months. Both the CM UZH degree program and the management of the Federal Examination in Chiropractic are represented on the Academy Foundation Board.

The Academy management participates at least once as an external examiner in the CM UZH Clinic Entrance Exam (entrance exam for the clinical academic year). Each autumn semester (October), the Academy holds an online information event for academic years 4-6, at which the necessary documents for the Academy program are made available.

Many of the Academy's lecturers are involved in the CM UZH training program and/or the federal examination in chiropractic and are therefore well placed to assess the level of the individual training sections.

External assessment

The academy has been implementing, living and developing competency based education for a long time and has also taken already steps for formulating and implementing EPAs.

The standard is fully compliant.

Statement responsible organisation

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AAQ statement on the assessment of the standard

All aspects of the standard assessed.

Conclusion coherently derived.

4. Overall assessment / strengths and challenges of the postgraduate medical education programme

Commendations

The Chiropractic Profession in Switzerland, the lecturers and workshop presenters at the Academy, the post-graduate programme organizers and the past and present leaders of Chirosuisse are to be highly praised for their longstanding foresight, inspiration, dedication, and endless hard work. This has lead to Switzerland having the best situation for chiropractors and therefore the chiropractic patients internationally.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The academy should strive to facilitate a better integration of the trainees that were not already educated at the university of Zurich into the postgraduate education programme and cohort.

Recommendation 2: The academy should enable more online course formats (where suitable) to relieve trainees from travelling hours.

Recommendation 3: The academy should make the competencies contained within the CanMeds more explicit in the curriculum and for the trainees.

Recommendation 4: The academy should integrate more practical clinical content into the postgraduate programme – also in order to distinguish it clearly from the basic medical education programme and to create the appropriate profile for postgraduate education in chiropractic.

Recommendation 5: The academy should develop a system that enables trainees to use adverse events as learning opportunities.

Recommendation 6: The academy should ensure a professional attitude among their principals regarding the use of evidence based methods in their treatments.

Recommendation 7: The use of electronic filing systems should be a requirement in a practice in order to take in trainees.

Recommendation 8: The academy should encourage that the principals pay a decent salary for the trainees.

Recommendation 9: The academy should include trainees - and in general collect and use their feedback more systematically - for curriculum revision and development.

Recommendation 10: The academy should publish the relevant information regarding complaints on their website.

Recommendation 11: The academy should work more systematically on the specific didactic qualifications and further development of its trainers.

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Lobende Erwähnungen

Die Profession der Chiropraktik in der Schweiz gesamthaft, und insbesondere die Dozierenden und Workshopleitenden der Akademie sowie das gesamte Organisationsteam des Postgraduierten-Programms und die ehemaligen und derzeitigen Führungskräfte von Chirosuisse verdienen grosses Lob für ihre langjährige Weitsicht, Inspiration, Hingabe und unermüdliche harte Arbeit. Dies hat dazu geführt, dass die Schweiz die besten Bedingungen für Chiropraktoren und damit für Chiropraktik-Patient:innen weltweit bietet.

Empfehlungen

Empfehlung 1: Die Akademie sollte sich bemühen, eine bessere Integration der Weiterzubildenden, die nicht bereits an der Universität Zürich ausgebildet wurden, in das postgraduale Programm und die Kohorte zu ermöglichen.

Empfehlung 2: Die Akademie sollte mehr Online-Kursformate (wo geeignet) ermöglichen, um den Weiterzubildenden stundenlanges Reisen zu ersparen.

Empfehlung 3: Die Akademie sollte die in den CanMeds enthaltenen Kompetenzen im Curriculum und für die Weiterzubildenden deutlicher machen.

Empfehlung 4: Die Akademie sollte mehr praktische klinische Inhalte in das Postgraduiertenprogramm integrieren – auch um es klar vom medizinischen Grundausbildungsprogramm zu unterscheiden und ein angemessenes Profil für die postgraduale Weiterbildung in Chiropraktik zu schaffen.

Empfehlung 5: Die Akademie sollte ein System entwickeln, das es den Weiterzubildenden ermöglicht, unerwünschte Ereignisse als Lernmöglichkeiten zu nutzen.

Empfehlung 6: Die Akademie sollte bei ihren Weiterbildenden eine professionelle Haltung in Bezug auf den Einsatz evidenzbasierter Methoden in ihren Behandlungen sicherstellen.

Empfehlung 7: Die Nutzung elektronischer Ablagesysteme sollte eine Voraussetzung für die Aufnahme von Weiterzubildenden in eine Praxis sein.

Empfehlung 8: Die Akademie sollte die Weiterbildenden dazu ermutigen, den Weiterzubildenden ein angemessenes Gehalt zu zahlen.

Empfehlung 9: Die Akademie sollte Weiterzubildende in die Überarbeitung und Entwicklung des Curriculums einbeziehen und generell ihr Feedback systematischer sammeln und nutzen.

Empfehlung 10: Die Akademie sollte die relevanten Informationen zu Beschwerden auf ihrer Website veröffentlichen.

Empfehlung 11: Die Akademie sollte systematischer an der spezifischen didaktischen Qualifikation und Weiterentwicklung ihrer Weiterbildenden arbeiten.

5. AAQ accreditation request

Based on the self-assessment of the Swiss Academy of Chiropractic, the assessments of the experts and the statement of the responsible organisation, AAQ considers the accreditation criteria and the quality standards for postgraduate education courses in accordance with Art. 25 MedPA to be fulfilled and requests that the postgraduate education programme in chiropractic be accredited without condition.

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Gestützt auf die Selbstbeurteilung der Swiss Academy of Chiropractic, die Bewertungen der Gutachtergruppe sowie der Stellungnahme der verantwortlichen Organisation sieht die AAQ die Akkreditierungskriterien und die Qualitätsstandards für Weiterbildungsgänge gemäss Art. 25 MedBG als vollständig erfüllt und beantragt, den Weiterbildungsgang in Chiropraktik ohne Auflagen zu akkreditieren.

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