



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

VKS /
AMCS

Vereinigung der Kantonsärztinnen und Kantonsärzte der Schweiz
Association des médecins cantonaux de Suisse
Associazione dei medici cantionali della Svizzera
Associaziun dals medis chantunals da la Svizra
Swiss Association of Cantonal Officers of Health

Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA)

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)
Prevention and Healthcare Provision Directorate

CH-3003 Bern
FOPH

Your reference:
Reference/file number:
Our reference:
Official in charge: Salome von Greyerz
Bern, 10.08.2026

Enclosure to the Certificate of good standing

Dear Sir or Madam,

We repeatedly receive queries from foreign authorities concerning the competence to issue Certificates of Good Standing in Switzerland. Until August 2016 these certificates were signed by the persons in charge in the respective cantons and countersigned by the president of the Swiss Association of Cantonal Officers of Health (VKS). In Switzerland, however, this responsibility lies solely with the 26 cantons. Therefore, since September 2016 these Certificates of Good Standing have been signed only by the persons in charge in the respective cantons – usually, but not always, the cantonal medical officer. This letter provides a brief description of the Swiss system and the competences with regard to the exercise of the physician's profession.

Although the Confederation regulates admission for the independent exercise of the profession for qualified medical personnel (in particular physicians) at the federal level in the Medical Professions Act (MedPA), the 26 cantons are responsible for the implementation of MedPA provisions as well as for monitoring the exercise of the profession in Switzerland. The prerequisite for the independent exercise of the profession, e.g. for operating a doctor's surgery, is a professional licence from the canton where the profession is to be exercised. Someone exercising a medical profession independently in several cantons requires a professional licence from each of those cantons. "Independent" in the sense of the current MedPA means in particular working on one's own professional responsibility.

The regulation of employed exercise of the profession, for example for doctors in advanced training (particularly junior doctors and consultants in hospitals), lies fully within the purview of the cantons and not of the Confederation, and the professional licences are handled differently in each canton.

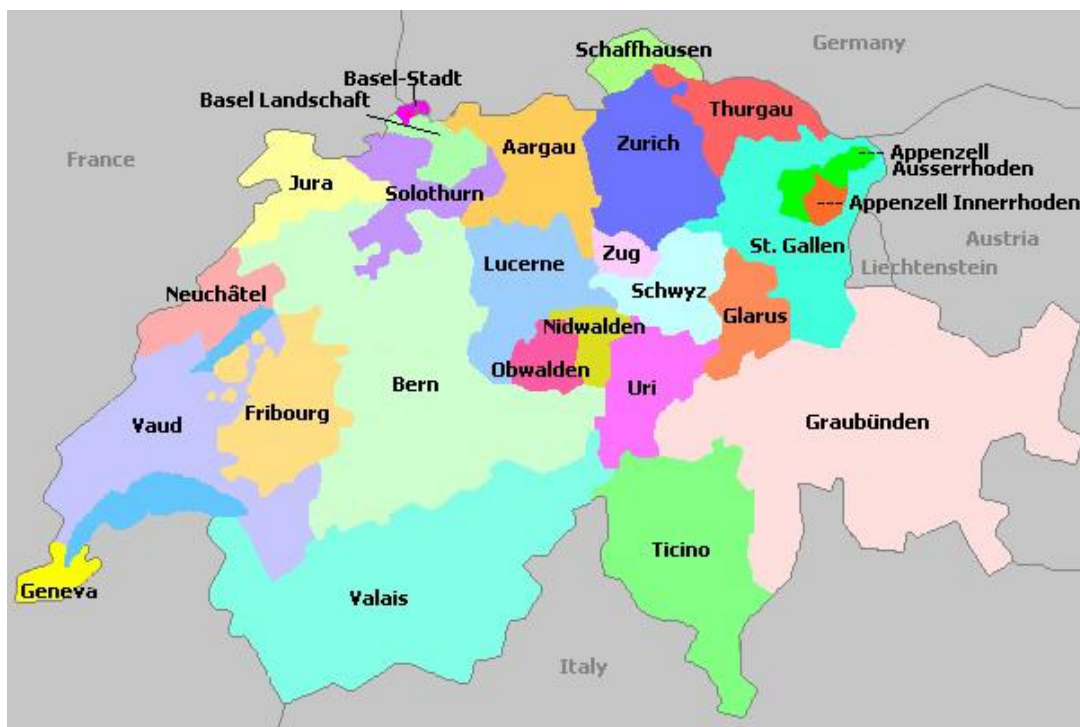
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Each canton designates a regulatory authority for the monitoring of employed and independently working qualified members of the medical profession. If professional obligations or other legal provisions in connection with the exercise of the profession are infringed, the cantonal regulatory authorities can order disciplinary measures such as reprimands, fines or the revocation of the professional licence. The cantons also have criminal jurisdiction in Switzerland. It is thus the cantons which are responsible for issuing Certificates of Good Standing in Switzerland as only they have access to all the required information about a person.

In the appendix you will find a list of the responsible cantonal authorities and the persons currently authorised to sign is provided below. This list will, in particular, enable the authorities in other countries to identify the responsible cantonal authorities and the signatories and thus to verify the authenticity of Certificates of Good Standing. The signatures can be verified by sending an e-mail with the subject "Certificate of good Standing - Switzerland" to the following e-mail address:

COGS-Switzerland@bag.admin.ch

We will then send you a PDF document with the scanned signatures for verification.



The Swiss Confederation consists of 26 cantons

Thank you very much for your attention.

With kind regards,

Federal Office of Public Health
Health Care Professions Division
Head of department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. von Greyerz', with a stylized, flowing script.

Salome von Greyerz, PharmD

Swiss Association of Cantonal Officers of Health
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Grützmacher', with a stylized, flowing script.

Barbara Grützmacher, MD

Appendix

List of the cantons, the authorized signatories and their functions

Canton	Authorized signatories	Function
Aargau	Walbert Jakob Mathieu-Thlébaud Claudine Bigi Sandra	Performance mandate and quality controlling Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Appenzell Innerrhoden	Cajochen Mathias	Departmental aide
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	Bach Franz Berthel Henrik Bigger Silvia	Deputy Head of the Office of Public Health Cantonal medical officer Head of the Healthcare Professionals
Bern	Grützmacher Barbara Fichtner Jens Heilbronn Danny Häusler Orvil	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer Head of Supervision and Licensing Division Deputy Head of Supervision and Licensing Division
Basel-Land	Sommer Juerg Al-Deb'i Aref	Director Office of Public Health Cantonal medical officer
Basel-Stadt	Fuchs Simon Würfel Eva	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Fribourg	Gmür Robert Chassot Sophie Konrad Yasmine Gachet Christophe	Legal advisor Lawyer Leader specialist departmental Lawyer
Geneva	Cassini Alessandro Panteleimon Giannakopoulos Regard Simon	Médecin cantonal Directeur général ad intérim Médecin cantonal suppléant
Glarus	Bolla Orsolya Jamnicki Marina Allmendinger Jörg Baumgartner Samuel	Head of the Office of Public Health Cantonal medical officer Cantonal medical officer Secretary General
Graubünden	Jamnicki Marina Allmendinger Jörg Schneider Jörg Hug Julia	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer Head of legal
Jura	Wagner Nicole Chevrey-Schaller Sophie Schaller Amandine Vermeille Matthieu	Cantonal pharmacist Deputy Head of department Deputy Cantonal medical officer Médecin cantonal
Lucerne	Harstall Roger Hegglin Sandra Schmutz Claudia	Chief medical officer Head of legal Deputy Chief Officer of Health
Neuchâtel	Kaufmann Laurent Cayzergues-Kervadec Laure	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Nidwalden	Dörr Karen dos Santos Ana Carolina	Secretary General Head of the Office of Public Health
Obwalden	Amstad Christoph	Head of the Department of Security and Social affairs
St. Gallen	Peier Karen Hafner Annina	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Schaffhausen	Lenz-Agnes Elke Anders Christoph	Cantonal medical officer Cantonal medical officer
Solothurn	Keune-Dübi Bettina Mrosek Nadja	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer

Schwyz	Pouskoulas Christos Hegner Sita	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Thurgau	Burkhalter Agnes Steinmann Patrick	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Ticino	Bottinelli Cancellara Patrizia Cerutti-Marchesi Anna	Head of the Office of Public Health Deputy Head of the Office of Public Health
Uri	Hartmann Roland	Secretary General
Vaud	Pisler Stéphanie	Head of Authorization and Complaints
Valais	Berthod Delphine Dessimoz Cédric	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Zug	Hauri Rudolf Klaey Hanspeter	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer
Zurich	Kluschke Franziska Bally Bettina Sandra Gutmann	Cantonal medical officer Deputy cantonal medical officer Head of department
