EUROPEAN CANCER CENTRES

FAQs

Catalogue of Requirements for the Neuro-oncology Centres

In Oncology Centres

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Within the framework of the certification procedure, questions regularly crop up which require an explanation of the Technical and Medical Requirements. This document contains answers to the questions which the centres can refer to when implementing, and the experts can refer to when assessing the Technical and Medical Requirements.

Version FAQ and Catalogue of Requirements (CR)

Version status FAQs: 08 September 2021

The FAQs in this document refer to the following documents which are now in force:

Catalogue of Requirements Neuro	Version F2	08.09.2021
Indicator Sheet Neuro	Version F2.1	08.09.2021

Overview of FAQs

Catalogue of Requirements

Section CR	Requirements		Last update
1.1 Structure of the network	1.1.2	Main cooperation partners	14.07.2016
1.2 Interdisciplinary cooperation	1.2.2	Interdisciplinary pre-intervention tumour conference	29.07.2020
	1.2.3	Interdisciplinary tumour conference	19.07.2018
1.4 Psycho-oncology	1.4.4	Neuropsychology	14.07.2016
1.6 Patient involvement	---	Self-help groups	29.07.2020
1.7 Study management	1.7.4	Proportion study patients	14.07.2016
8 Pathology	8.6.1	Assessment frozen sections / specimens	19.07.2018
10 Tumour Documentation/ Outcome Quality	10.2	Kaplan-Meier-curves	19.07.2018
		Follow-up	19.07.2018

Indicator Sheet

Indicator		Last update
---	Basic Data	26.06.2019
2a	Interdisciplinary case reviews (tumour board)	14.07.2016
3	Psycho-oncological care	19.07.2018
4	Counselling social services	19.07.2018
7a	Revision surgeries	14.07.2016

FAQs - Catalogue of Requirements - Neuro

1.1 Structure of the network

Section	Requirements		
1.1.2	Cooperation agreements Main cooperation partners Neurosurgery, neurology, neuroradiology, neuropathology, radio-oncology, haematology and oncology and medicinal oncology Cooperation partners In addition to the cooperation partners mentioned in the Catalogue of Requirements, cooperation agreements are to be entered into with: pathology, neuropsychology, psychiatry, paediatric haematology and oncology, occupational therapy, ophthalmology, endocrinology and speech therapy.	FAQ (14.07.2016) Neurology and neurosurgery must be located at one site.	

1.2 Interdisciplinary cooperation

Section	Requirements		
1.2.2	Interdisciplinary pre-intervention tumour conference Cycle A tumour conference must be staged at least once a week. Participants: Neurosurgeon, neurologist, neuroradiologist, neuropathologist, radiotherapist, internal oncologist**. Related to the indication, e.g. in the case of cerebral metastases the presenting specialties are to be invited to the tumour conference. **Haematologist/oncologist If the haematologist/oncologist is unable to attend the conference, he/she may be represented by the neuro-oncologist responsible for chemotherapy (qualification in line with section 6.2).	FAQ (29.07.2020) In principle, the participation of a haemato-oncologist is required. In exceptional cases, this can be represented by the qualified neurologist or neurosurgeon responsible for chemotherapy.	

1.2.3	Interdisciplinary tumour conference All primary case patients should be presented in the interdisciplinary tumour conference: Elective patients: pre-intervention, emergency patients: at least post-intervention (Patient can only be taken into account 1x for the numerator). Scale of the discussed primary cases ≥95%	FAQ (19.07.2018) All primary cases should be presented at the interdisciplinary tumour conference. Whenever possible, all patients should be presented pre-interventionally. However, the following must be ensured as a minimum: elective patients pre-interventionally and emergency patients (at least) post-interventionally. (at least) post-intervention. Each patient can only be considered once for the numerator.	

1.4 Psycho-oncology

Section	Requirements		

1.4.4	Neuropsychology
	• 1 psychologist with the additional designation Clinical Neuropsychologist (GNP) is available to the Centre (if necessary via cooperation).
	• Cooperation must be presented by way of documented cases during the assessment period.
	• The following processes are to be described with details of responsibilities:
	  • patient presentation criteria;
	  • communication within the Centre;
	  • participation in events, quality circles, tumour conference and similar events of the Centre.
		FAQ (14.07.2016)
		Does the neuro-oncology centre have to have a psychologist who is also a neuropsychologist?
		
		Answer:
		No, psychologist and neuropsychologist can be represented by 2 different persons.	

1.6 Patient involvement

Section	Requirements		
1.6	Self-help groups	FAQ (29.07.2020) If there are no regional brain tumour self-help groups, supraregional self-help initiatives (e.g. Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe) should also be considered and included.	

1.7 Study management

Section	Requirements		
1.7.4	Proportion study patients 1. Initial certification: At the time of initial certification ≥1 patient must have been included in studies. 2. after 1 year: at least 5% of malignant primary case number (ICD C70-72, C75.1-3) Only the inclusion of patients in studies with an ethical vote counts as study participation (non-interventional/diagnostic studies and prevention studies are also recognised, sole biobank collections are excluded). All study patients can be taken into account when calculating the study rate (share study patients based on the Centre's primary case number). General preconditions for the definition of the study quota: • Patients can be counted 1x per study, time: Date of patient's informed consent. • Patients in the palliative and adjuvant situation can be counted, no limitations regarding stage of disease. • Patients who are taking part in several studies simultaneously can be counted several times. The study rate can also be achieved in cooperation with other active units.	FAQ (14.07.2016) Patients of centre A can participate in studies in another clinic/centre and be counted for the study quota of centre A. Patients can only be counted for study quota of centre A, no double counting.	

8 (Neuro-) pathology

Section	Requirements		
8.6.1	Assessment frozen sections / specimens • All frozen sections / sections are to be diagnosed by neuropathologists (as a rule on site, possibly via cooperation; cooperations > 45km are to be justified). • In exceptional cases the cutting of the frozen section may be undertaken by pathologists on site. In these cases, the telemedical microscopic assessment of the frozen sections must be done by the neuropathology specialist.	FAQ (19.07.2018) All preparations and frozen sections must be evaluated by a specialist in neuropathology. As a rule, this specialist should be on site at the centre. - In justified individual cases, a distance of >45 km between the centre and neuropathology is permissible. - If no neuropathologist is available on site, the pathology specialist may, in exceptional cases, carry out the cutting of the frozen section preparation and the histological assessment may be carried out by the neuropathologist via telemedicine.	

10 Tumordokumentation / Ergebnisqualität

Section	Requirements		
10.2	Tumour documentation system • Tumour documentation, which contains the patient data for a minimum period of 3 months, must be in place at the time of initial certification. • The patients with neuro-oncological tumours must be recorded in one tumour documentation system. Name of the tumour documentation system in a cancer registry and/or Centre A data set in line with the Uniform Oncological Basic Data Set (*Einheitlicher Onkologischer Basisdatensatz*) and its modules of the Working Group of German Tumour Centres (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Tumorzentren* - ADT) and the Association of Population-based Cancer Registries in Germany (*Gesellschaft der epidemiologischen Krebsregister in Deutschland* - GEKID) must be used. The Centre must ensure that the data transfer to the competent cancer registry is done in a timely manner. Any existing federal state laws for notification deadlines are to be complied with.	FAQ (19.07.2018) Do Kaplan-Meier curves have to be drawn up by the centre with the patients of the neuro-oncology centre? Answer: The presentation of Kaplan-Meier curves is not obligatory for the NOZ. The presentation of the clinical course, i.e. the quality of outcome, is the task of the cancer registries. FAQ (19.07.2018) Does the centre have to collect follow-up data for the patients of the neuro-oncology centre? Answer: No, follow-up data do not have to be collected. The presentation of the clinical course, i.e. the quality of outcome, is the task of the cancer registries.	

FAQs - Indicator Sheet Neuro

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Basic data</td><td colspan="3">FAQ (14.07.2016):
Peripheral neuro-tumours, like spinal tumours, cannot be coded. Instead, cavernomas, for example, can be coded under the guise of haemangioblastomas.

Answer:
No coverage of peripheral neuro-TM,
Cavernomas may also not be counted.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="3">FAQ (14.07.2016):
It seems implausible that the same patient with first e.g. astrocytoma WHO grade II or III and then glioblastoma cannot be recorded twice as a primary case.

Answer:
In principle, counting according to the procedural instruction 1x as primary case, in the same year additionally 1x with first diagnosis recurrence/ metastasis countable, otherwise 1x annually with recurrence/ metastasis.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="3">FAQ (26.06.2019):
Some patients have been diagnosed with an intracranially located epidermoid (histologically confirmed). Can these tumours be counted as primary cases?

Answer:
Intracranial epidermoid cysts may not be counted as primary cases for the Neuro-oncology Centre.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">2a</td><td rowspan="3">Interdisciplinary case reviews (tumour board)</td><td>Numerator</td><td>Primary cases of the denominator (elective patients:pre-intervention, emergency patients: post-intervention) who were presented in the tumour board</td><td rowspan="3">FAQ (14.07.2016):
Each patient (= elective and emergency) can only be counted once for the counter, regardless of the number of presentations.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Denominator</td><td>Primary cases
(= Indicator 1a)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Target value</td><td>≥ 95%</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">3</td><td rowspan="3">Psycho-oncological care</td><td>Numerator</td><td>Patients of the denominator who received psycho-oncological care in an inpatient or outpatient setting (Consultation ≥ 25 min.)</td><td rowspan="3">FAQ (14.07.2016):
Psycho-oncological care in all inpatient and outpatient departments should be counted for the numerator (e.g. psycho-oncological care in radiotherapy).

FAQ (19.07.2018):
Per patient, one recurrence/progression of the primary tumour per calendar year can be counted for the denominator.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Denominator</td><td>Primary cases
(= Indicator 1a) and patients with recurrence / progress (= Indicator 1b)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Target value</td><td>No target value</td></tr>
</table>

FAQ's - Datenblatt Neuro

4	Counselling social services	Numerator	Patients of the denominator who received counselling by social services in an inpatient or outpatient setting	FAQ (19.07.2018): For each patient, 1 recurrence/progression of the primary tumour per calendar year can be counted for the denominator.
		Dominator	Primary cases (= Indicator 1a) and patients with recurrence / progress (= Indicator 1b)	
		Target value	No target value	
7a	Revision surgeries	Numerator	Primary cases of the denominator with revision surgeries as a consequence of post-surgical complications within 30d of surgery	FAQ (14.07.2016): Revision operations are defined by the documentation of an OPS code. FAQ (14.07.2016): Post-operative resections should not be counted for the numerator. However, postoperative CSF fistulas shall be counted.
		Denominator	Surgical primary cases (= indicator 6a)	
		Target value	No target value	