

# Mobile Oncological Service for Out-Patients (MOD): a Novel Approach to Rural Medical Needs

Vehling-Kaiser U., Damnali G., Weiglein T., Kaiser F.  
The Landshut Network for Oncology and Palliative Care

## Abstract:

The mobile oncological service for out-patients (MOD) is a project of the Oncologic-Palliative-Care-Network of Landshut, Germany. The MOD is financially supported by the bavarian state office for health- and food-safety. It was implemented to improve the medical care for multimorbid patients particularly in remote rural areas, receiving oral or subcutaneous anti-cancer treatments at home. Therefore, the delegation of doctoral tasks to especially trained staff is one of the crucial points of this undertaking, to ensure a comprehensive coverage of all patients in need.

**As a trend-setting and much needed project for rural areas lacking the infrastructure for complex cancer-patients, the MOD has been nominated for the Bavarian Health Award 2013.**



European Society for Medical Oncology Zertifiziert nach den Kriterien der DGHO Deutsche Gesellschaft für Hämatologie und Onkologie e.V.

Onkologisches  Zentrum

**Background:** The medical care for patients with complex hemato-oncological diseases in rural areas is highly contrary to the demands of professional societies, health insurance companies and politics regarding the optimal treatment of cancer patients due to specific problems:

- **low density of specialized oncologic institutions as of now**
- **demographic change, aggravated by the increase in overall life expectancy, combined with increase in associated oncological diseases of the elderly by significantly improved treatment options in the field of geriatric oncology**
- **low motivation of specialists for working in rural areas**
- **insufficient public transportation and infrastructure**
- **dramatic shortage of General Practitioners**

**The Project:** To optimize health care in rural areas, the project "Mobile Oncological Service" (MOD) was implemented in cooperation with the Bavarian Ministry of Health in 2012. This project focuses in particular on patients with severe co-morbidities and difficulties in accessing specialist practitioners. The following patient's **requirements for inclusion** in the MOD must be met:

- **Oncological patient**
- **Poor general condition**
- **Lack of transportation means**
- **Increased danger of infection**
- **Lack of compliance**

Central idea of the MOD is to delegate doctoral tasks to specially trained medical personnel, namely "assistants for oral and subcutaneous tumor therapy". These tasks include the monitoring of oral or s.c. tumor therapy, control and guidance of parenteral nutrition and port systems as well as control and exchange of pain pumps. The assistants liaise constantly with the supervising oncologist, including the general practitioner and nursing service about status and developments.

### Needed Qualifications:

**Nurses:** 2 years of experience in an oncologic ward or practice

**Medical assistants:** 3 years of experience in an oncologic ward or practice



## CONCLUSIONS The advantages of the MOD can be summarized as follows:

- Improving close to home care
- Ensuring high qualified oncological care for seriously ill and the elderly in rural areas
- Compensation of lack of qualified oncologists by specially qualified Nurses / Assistants
- reduced travel hassles, avoidance of stressful situations, reduced waiting times
- reduced travel times & cost
- less strain for family and relatives
- improved compliance for oral chemotherapy and sc-therapies
- reduction of side effects through better monitoring and management
- overall improvement of quality of life