EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence Certification Project

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EUROSPINE Centre of Excellence

EUROSPINE’s mission is to optimize patient care

- Goal: to enhance treatment quality in spine surgery

- Idea: to develop a certification program for spine centres in Europe

- Task Force, EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (SSCoE); members of
  - DWG (German Spine Society)
  - EUROSPINE
  - EUROSPINE Foundation
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Task Force working program:

1. Develop Guidelines for Certification of Spine Centres
2. Develop Internal Rules for the
   • Work of the Task Force
   • Certification of Spine Centres

To achieve consensus
  • 14 Spine Specialists
  • 8 Countries
  • 4 Delphi Rounds
  • 2 Personal Meetings
  • 1 year work
Guidelines

• EUROSPINE SSCOe

Pathologies:
– A. Degenerative diseases
– B. Tumor (including intradural pathologies)
– C. Inflammatory and metabolic diseases
– D. Injuries
– E. Deformities (including congenital disease)
Guidelines - Definition of quality criteria (1)

- Characteristics of equipment, diagnostic/therapeutic/interdisciplinary facilities
  - Baseline features: for all pathology groups
    for example: X-Ray, CT, MRI, ICU, 24/7 ER, pain treatment, etc.
  - Specific features: additional for each pathological subgroup
    for example: tumor: tumor board, angiography, scintigraphy, CT-biopsy, etc.
    for example: deformities: whole spine x-ray, IONM, etc.

- Staff and staff qualification
  EUROSPINE certificate or comparable Certification, number of personnel

- On-call duty and possibility to perform emergency surgery
Guidelines - Definition of quality criteria (2)

- Outpatient clinic, consultation hours for spine pathologies

- Quality management
  (quality control systems, SOPs, M&M, registry (Spine Tango), etc.)

- Accreditation for a surgical training program (Neuro/Ortho/Trauma)

- Research and teaching, advanced training and further education

- Frequency and complexity of surgeries (min surgeries and points/pathology)
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Guidelines – Frequency and Complexity of Surgeries

- Minimum 300 surgeries
- Minimum 500 points
  - 1 point “minor” spine surgery
  - 3 points “medium” spine surgery
  - 6 points “complex” spine surgery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathology</th>
<th>A Degenerative</th>
<th>B Tumour</th>
<th>C Inflammatory</th>
<th>D Injuries</th>
<th>E Deformities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Cases</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>53</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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- EUROSPINE evaluated multiple Certification Companies
- EUROSPINE contracted CERTIQ (certification company) to handle the certification process

CertIQ

- independent, accredited, State- and Health Ministry certified (ISO- 17021 / ISO 9001, etc.) quality controlled certification company based in Fürth/Germany

Internal Rules and Regulations
EUROSPINE Task Force Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (ESSCoE)

1. Preamble
The Task Force EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (ESSCoE) has been established by members of EUROSPINE, the EUROSPINE Foundation and representatives of the Division Spine Society (DWS) in 2017.

1.1. The Task Force aims to develop a certification program in order to establish a certification of spine centers in hospitals throughout Europe.
1.2. The goal of the project is to enhance treatment quality in spine surgery and to provide guidance for patients with spinal disorders by establishing spine centers of a certain quality.
1.3. First step of the project is the development of a concept for certification of hospitals and treatment facilities in spine surgery. After completion of the concept it has to be accepted by the Task Force before it will be tested. Testing will be done by 10 pilot centers distributed throughout Europe and defined by the Task Force Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence.
1.4. It is the goal to establish “equivalence” between the already existing German Centre of Excellence project and the EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence project.
1.5. If the testing will be successful, it is planned to announce the project of certification to the public before 1 January 2018 by advertising it on the EUROSPINE Social Media and the homepage of the certification company(ies).

2. Guidelines for certification
2.1. The currently valid version of the guidelines for certification will be published at the members’ section of the EUROSPINE homepage and the homepage of the certification company(ies).

3. Members of the commission
3.1. The Task Force consists of altogether 14 members. The specialists participating in the project are listed in appendix.
3.2. The members of the Task Force and the chairman are appointed by the EUROSPINE Executive Board.
3.3. The term of the members is 3 years. Each member can be reappointed for a second term.

4. Method of certification
4.1. EUROSPINE will define a tender for the certification project. After evaluating the applications, EUROSPINE represented by the Task Force Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence will appoint one or more certification companies that will handle the certification process in the different countries. If more than one certification company will be appointed, their working area and responsibility will be limited to specific countries. It is the goal to avoid overlap between the different responsibilities.
4.2. The application of the Spine Centers / hospitals for certification will be addressed to the appropriate certification company. The mailing address of the certification company(ies) will be published at the members section of the EUROSPINE homepage.
4.3. The certification company will provide an online application form through which the applicants submit their documents. The certification company will check the
Certification Process

• Centre /Hospital applies to CertIQ (www.cert-iq.de)
• CertIQ provides an online application form
• Centre fills out the form, submits requested documents online
• CertIQ checks the information / documents
• On-Site visit with audit will be allocated
• CertIQ produces a report including a recommendation, if the Centre has fulfilled the guidelines
• Centre receives the EUROSPINE Centre of Excellence Certificate
• Costs: ~ 5000, €
• The certificate validity of four years
Why should I / my centre be certified?

• to receive external, independent quality control
• to establish continuous internal quality control
• to optimize processes, structure of your center
• to advertise / display the quality of your center
• to strengthen your reputation
• to acquire patients
• to receive payment from insurance companies
• to become a EUROSPINE Reference Center
• to be honored as “one of the best”
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CertIQ Test Audits:
• 1\textsuperscript{st} Test Audit 9\textsuperscript{th} August 2018, BGU Hospital Frankfurt, Germany
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} Test Audit 26\textsuperscript{th} August 2018, Schön Klinik Hamburg, Germany

10 Test Centres:
• Benneker: Inselspital, University Bern, Switzerland
• Bolger: Beaumont Private Clinic, Dublin, Ireland
• De Kleuver: Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands
• Kahraman: Anadolu Center, Istanbul, Turkey
• Munting: Clinique Saint Pierre, Ottignies, Belgium
• Passuti: CHI, Nantes, France
• Pereira: Sao Joao Hospital: Porto, Portugal
• Pigott: Walton Center, Liverpool, United Kingdom
• Suchomel: Liberec Hospital, Liberec, Czech Republic
• Weber: University Hospital, Stavanger, Norway
Open the SSSCoE Project to EUSSAB:
1\textsuperscript{st} February 2019

\url{www.eurospine.org}
\url{www.cert-iq.de}