



EUROSPINE Surgical Spine
Centre of Excellence Certification Project

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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

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

EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (SSCoE)

Defined by the EUROSPINE Task Force Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (SSCoE)

1. EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (SSCoE)

- 1.1. Only EUROSPINE members can apply in the name of their institution for receiving a certificate as a EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence. Hence, at least one physician in the applying centre has to be EUROSPINE member.
- 1.2. A EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence is certified for one or more specific pathologies. The pathologies that can be certified are listed in chapter 3.
- 1.3. A two-step concept was established to highlight the differences in the volume of patients treated in the certified centres.
 - EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (high volume)
 - EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (regular volume)


2. Centres to be certified

- 2.1. This concept of certification was developed for centres which are focused on spine surgery.
- 2.2. The term "centre" basically characterises a highly specialised institution. A "centre" is usually supposed to have exceptional equipment, highly qualified personnel, experience and competence on its field. Its significance must be beyond normal organisation units and has to be - based on national juridical measures and common sense - of high relevance beyond its region. A EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence must have such a "supra-regional" function.
- 2.3. Suitable "hospitals" hosting the centres should provide 24/7 care with the possibility to perform emergency surgeries on the spine at any time. 24/7 indicates availability over 24 hours, 7 days a week including weekends and holidays.
- 2.4. The term "hospital" and the necessity to provide in-patient treatment indicates the availability of services "on hospital ground" (campus) or in direct neighbourhood to each other and on an every-day basis.
- 2.5. Centres that perform conservative treatment only, such as pain clinics or rehabilitation clinics, are not intended to be certified under those parameters. It is planned to establish a certification process for EUROSPINE Conservative Spine Centre of Excellence (CSSCoE) in the future.
- 2.6. Only one certificate for each hospital or centre will be granted. However, the EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence at one hospital can be represented by multiple clinical departments or facilities "under the same roof". The goal of this regulation is to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. An association between several hospitals or facilities of different location is not suitable. The guiding principle for this EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence certificate is to provide all necessary services "under the same roof".

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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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of a thick red wave shape above a dark blue wave shape, both curving from left to right.

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

Pathology	A Degenerative	B Tumour	C Inflammatory	D Injuries	E Deformities
Number of Cases	200	20	15	70	30
Points	420	42	32	147	53

- 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 (SSCoE)

1. Preamble

The Task Force EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (SSCoE) has been established by members of EUROSPINE, the EUROSPINE Foundation and representatives of the German Spine Society (DWG) in 2017.

- 1.1. The Task Force aims to develop a certification program in order to establish a certification of spine centres 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 displaying spine centres 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 Centres 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 2019 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 1.
- 3.2. The members of the Task Force and the chairman are appointed by the EUROSPINE ExCom.
- 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 overlaps between the different responsibilities.
- 4.2. The application of the Spine Centres / 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



Audit day: 09.08.2018	
Time	Auditors/Contents
09:15 - 10:45	Expert auditor
Location	Meeting room
Area	<p>Auditing the structure and management of the Spine Center</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality policy and objectives - Organisational structure - Executive Committee - Bylaws - Competence Team - Interdisciplinarity in treatment <p>Communications within the Spine Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of the out patient consultation - Guarantee of availability and organisation of the on-call service - Research activities - Training of the medical staff: residents, fellows and board examination-trainees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing education: Doctors Nurses Therapists - Overview of SOPs applicable for the Spine Center [operative/conservative] <p>Kindly provide an overview about risk management [including CIRS], error management, complaint management of your hospital/ your spine center [for german Spine Centers: implementation of GBA-Standard]</p> <p>Outcome -Data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindly prepare and depict - numbers [cases] according to grades of 'severity of intervention' and 'pathologies' [Criteria catalogue DW e.V. Wirbelsäulenregister] - Statistics on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complications Infections <p>Please note: A center presentation considering all above-mentioned topics will be expected.</p>
Participants	<p>Head of the Spine Center</p> <p>QMB</p> <p>Coordinators of the Spine Center</p> <p>Partner of the Spine Center</p> <p>[...other participants]</p> <p>Expert auditor</p>

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”

A template for a EUROSPINE Certification Certificate. It features the EUROSPINE logo in the top left and a gold seal in the top right. The word "Certification" is written in a large, elegant script font. Below it, the text reads: "CERT IQ GmbH certifies that Your Hospital Name, City, Country represented by Your Department 1, Your Name, Title Your Department 2, Your Name, Title Your Department 3, Your Name, Title has successfully passed the audit". This is followed by a reference to the EUROSPINE guidelines and the accreditation title "Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence". A dark blue box contains fields for certification number, date of audit, groups of pathologies, report number, and certification validity. At the bottom, there is a signature line for Andrea Tinter, Head of Certification Body, and the CERT IQ logo and address: "CERT IQ, Zertifizierungsdienstleistungen GmbH, Mell-Beese-Str. 19, 90768 Fürth".

EUROSPINE

CERTIFIED BY EUROSPINE

Certification

CERT IQ GmbH certifies that
Your Hospital Name, City, Country
represented by
Your Department 1, Your Name, Title
Your Department 2, Your Name, Title
Your Department 3, Your Name, Title
has successfully passed the audit

according to EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe Guidelines for Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence (SSCoE, Version 2.1, 14 September 2018)

and is therefore awarded accreditation as

Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence

Certification number: CERT2019-001
Date of audit: day month year
Groups of pathologies:

Report number: xxx-xxx-xxx
Certification valid until: day month year
A. Degenerative diseases
B. Tumour (including intradural pathologies)
C. Inflammatory and metabolic diseases
D. Injuries
E. Deformities (including congenital disease)

Fürth, day month year

CERT IQ
CERT IQ, Zertifizierungsdienstleistungen GmbH
Mell-Beese-Str. 19
90768 Fürth

Signature
Andrea Tinter
Head of Certification Body

CertIQ Test Audits:

- 1st Test Audit 9th August 2018, BGU Hospital Frankfurt, Germany
- 2nd Test Audit 26th 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





EUROSPINE Centre of Excellence

**Open the SSCoE Project to EUSSAB :
1st February 2019**

www.eurospine.org

www.cert-iq.de

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