



Quality Report 2024/25

Swiss Society for Angiology (SSA)

February 13, 2025

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Approved by:

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Preamble

Angiology deals with extracranial and extracardiac vascular diseases of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic vessels, using both non-invasive and invasive diagnostics as well as conservative and invasive therapies.

The goal of all medical treatments is the personalized application of diagnostics and therapy based on efficacy, appropriateness, and cost-effectiveness (EAC) to prevent and treat vascular diseases.

With the **Quality Charter** of the **Swiss Academy for Quality in Medicine (SAQM)**, which was first presented at the Medical Assembly on October 27, 2016, and signed by various medical organizations, the SGA commits to formulating its quality activities within a strategy and regularly reporting on progress based on transparency, commitment, and sustainability.

The revised **Article 58 of the Swiss Health Insurance Act (KVG)**, in effect since April 1, 2021, focuses on quality and cost-effectiveness, aiming for a systematic and structured improvement in the quality of medical services.

The legal revision of the KVG was based on country reports from the OECD and WHO, which emphasized the necessity of analyzing treatment outcomes and morbidity in connection with healthcare services. International studies indicate that **10% of all hospital stays involve adverse events**, half of which could be avoided. These findings suggest that in Switzerland, **2,000 to 3,000 deaths** occur annually due to adverse events in hospital settings. A national registry to confirm these mortality data or document therapy-related morbidity does not currently exist.

Every patient is entitled to high-quality medical care. While deaths or complications—whether with or without long-term consequences—should be avoided, they are often unforeseeable in a complex medical context and difficult to identify retrospectively without thorough analysis. Quality initiatives aimed at improvement are therefore crucial.

From **April 1, 2022**, medical service providers (i.e., physicians) are **legally required** to implement quality improvement measures. The framework for quality development and measurement must be defined in quality contracts jointly developed by healthcare provider associations and health insurer associations.

SGA Quality Structure

The SGA board is divided into **eight main divisions**, four of which are directly related to quality development:

- a) **Division for Patient Safety, Quality Assurance/Development, and Guidelines**
- b) **Division for Continuing Education and Specialist Examinations**
- c) **Division for Science**, particularly the development of new treatments
- d) **Division for Finance/Tariffs**, which determines compensation for the effort involved in quality assessment

Quality Activities and Quality Improvement Measures (QIM) 2024

Medical **continuing education** through specialist examinations and the mandatory **annual 50-credit training requirement** form the foundation for high-quality angiology care. Additional **certifications with regular recertifications** in the field of invasive endovascular therapies (interventional and endovenous) further enhance quality.

In 2024, the **Top 5 Topics in Angiology** were published in collaboration with **Smarter Medicine** ([link](#)). This publication serves as a guide for specialists, general practitioners, and patients regarding unnecessary treatments.

The **2024 overview** of SGA-recommended **guidelines** is available as a reference for SGA members ([link](#)).

During the **SGA General Assembly**, all members were informed about **occupational safety regulations** in outpatient institutions/practices, ensuring proper implementation according to legal requirements.

- **Specialist Examination (FMH Angiology) 2024:** Passed: n = 23
- **Certification in Interventional Angiology 2024:** Passed: n = 3

The **Angiology Radiation Protection Program** and the **Interventional Angiology Certification Program** were revised in **2022**. Since **2023**, a **new oral examination** based on case studies has been introduced.

Summary and Outlook for 2025/2026

With the **quality activities established in 2022-2024**, the SGA **almost fully complies** with the quality improvement measures (QIM) proposed by the **Swiss Academy for Quality in Medicine (SAQM)**.

A defined and established **angiology registry** has been developed but is currently on hold for **economic and administrative reasons**. The high **safety standards** in angiology are ensured through the above-mentioned **QIMs**. However, **compensation for the additional personnel and administrative effort** required for maintaining the registry, including **PROMS (patient-related outcome measurements)**, is **not covered** by **Tarmed** and **DRG** and is (still) undefined in **Tardoc** or case-based reimbursement systems.

In **2025**, alongside the **Annual Congress of the Union of Swiss Societies for Vascular Diseases**, the **Angiology Day 2025** (May 2025) will be held as an exclusive **collegial event for SGA members**, followed by the **2nd Angiology Day Zurich in September 2025**.