

Contents

1. Introduction3

2. Concepts of access, choice and guidance in health care.....3

3. Access, choice and guidance in Germany – Status Quo.....4

 3.1 The perspective of insured.....5

 3.2. The perspective of patients.....6

 3.3. The perspective of insurers.....8

 3.4. The perspective of health care providers.....11

4. New provisions under the *Statutory Health Insurance Modernization Act 2004 (GMG)* and the recent reform legislation (*Statutory Health Insurance – Competition Strengthening Act (GKV-WSG)*).....12

 4.1. The perspective of insured.....12

 4.2. The perspective of patients.....14

 4.3. The perspective of insurers.....14

 4.4. The perspective of health care providers (initiatives for better coordination of care)17

5. Conclusions19

6. Bibliography21

7. Appendix: German health care reforms from 1988 to today and their impact on access and choice.....25

List of Abbreviations

DMP	Disease Management Program
GKV-WSG	Statutory Health Insurance Competition Strengthening Act
GMG	Statutory Health Insurance Modernization Act
GP	General Practitioner
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
KV	Regional Association of SHI Physicians
POS	Point of Service Organizations
PPO	Preferred Provider Organizations
SHI	Statutory Health Insurance