

Overview CHARE GD-I sub project 4.

Title: Medical care provision in nursing homes and its influence on residents' health.

Scientific project leaders:

German side	Dutch side
Prof. Dr. Falk Hoffmann Prof. Dr. Tania Zieschang	Prof. Dr. Sytse Zuidema

Researcher conducting the project: Dr. Alexander Fassmer

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Project description:

Multimorbidity in older people is frequently accompanied by functional and cognitive impairment and admissions to nursing homes are frequent during the course of care. Along with this, nursing homes have become an increasingly important setting for end-of-life care. Although the healthcare systems of Germany and the Netherlands belong to the best in Europe, the organization of healthcare in these two neighboring European countries shows striking differences and nursing homes are one example. These differences directly influence residents' health. Thus, e.g., hospitalizations of nursing home residents seem to occur much less frequently in the Netherlands than in Germany.

This sub project aims to explore differences and similarities in healthcare provision between Dutch and German nursing homes in the Ems-Dollart region as well as to assess consequences of the differences. Our specific objectives are (1) to systematically review the evidence on hospitalizations of German and Dutch nursing home residents, (2) to compare the structure, process and coordination of medical care for nursing home residents on both sides of the border, (3) to explore differences in organization and cooperation, and (4) to develop and pretest instruments for assessing the utilization of medical care as well as quality of care and residents' outcomes in Dutch and German nursing home residents in the Ems-Dollart region prospectively.

Our data will deliver a first thorough overview of the main divergent features of medical care in nursing homes in the Netherlands and Germany on a meso-level. The developed and piloted instruments will serve as a basis for a larger and prospective study on cross-border comparisons within the Ems-Dollart region.