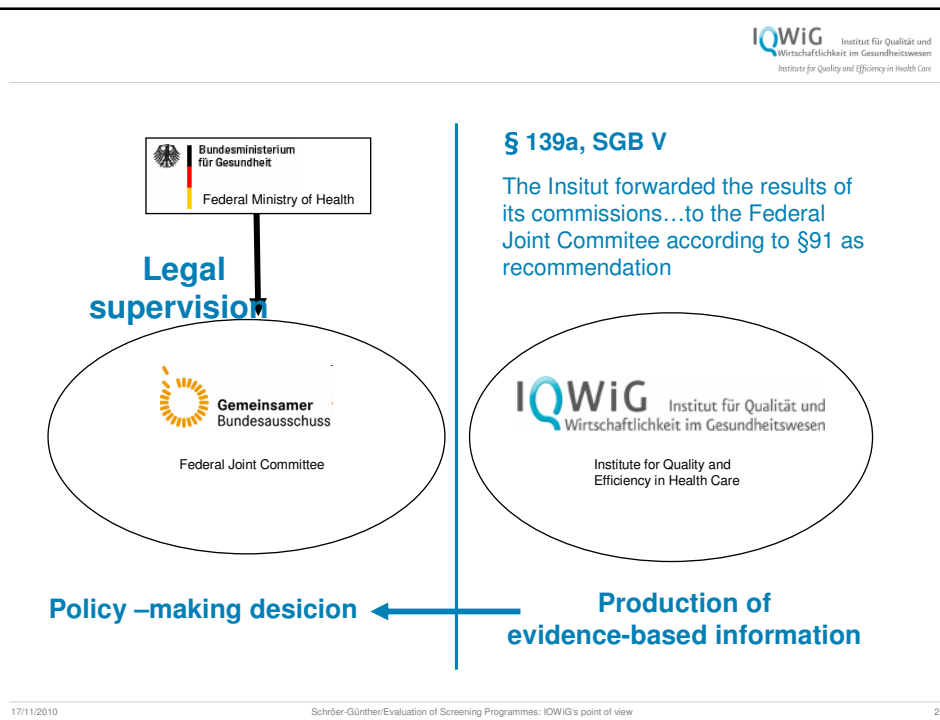
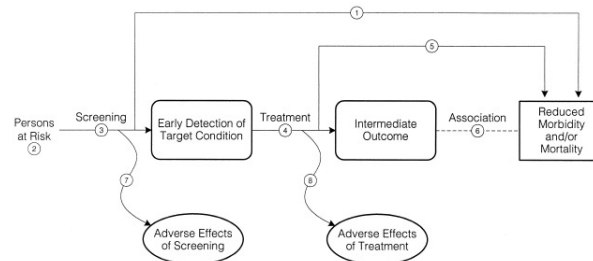


## Evaluation of Screening Programmes: IQWiG's point of view

Dr. Milly Schröer-Günther



## Evaluation of Screening Programmes: IQWiG's point of view



**Figure 1.** Generic analytic framework for screening topics. Numbers refer to key questions as follows: (1) Is there direct evidence that screening reduces morbidity and/or mortality? (2) What is the prevalence of disease in the target group? Can a high-risk group be reliably identified? (3) Can the screening test accurately detect the target condition? (a) What are the sensitivity and specificity of the test? (b) Is there significant variation between examiners in how the test is performed? (c) In actual screening programs, how much earlier are patients identified and treated? (4) Does treatment reduce the incidence of the intermediate outcome? (a) Does treatment work under ideal, clinical trial conditions? (b) How do the efficacy and effectiveness of treatments compare in community settings? (5) Does treatment improve health outcomes for people diagnosed clinically? (a) How similar are people diagnosed clinically to those diagnosed by screening? (b) Are there reasons to expect people diagnosed by screening to have even better health outcomes than those diagnosed clinically? (6) Is the intermediate outcome reliably associated with reduced morbidity and/or mortality? (7) Does screening result in adverse effects? (a) Is the test acceptable to patients? (b) What are the potential harms, and how often do they occur? (8) Does treatment result in adverse effects?

- Screening programmes are composed of different modules

Harris RP et al. Current Methods of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force - A Review of the Process. Am J Prev Med 2001;20(3S):21-35)

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## Evaluation of Screening Programmes: IQWiG's point of view

- Assessment follows international standard criteria: UK National Screening Committee, US Preventive Service Task Force or New Zealand National Health Committee.
- IQWiG assesses the benefit of screening tests by prospective comparative intervention studies on the whole screening chain which:
  - included random allocation of participants to a strategy with or without application of screening test.
  - investigated patient-relevant outcomes
    - Mortality
    - Morbidity (complaints and complications)
    - Health-related Quality of Life

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## Evaluation of Screening Programmes: IQWiG's point of view

▪ But if such studies are not available?



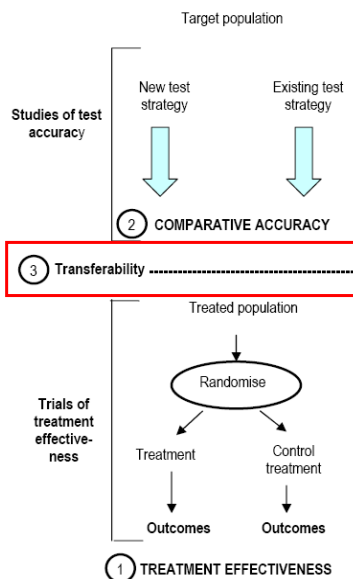
▪ Assessment of single components of screening chain can be performed.

▪ Accuracy of the diagnostic test is assessed (usually Phase 3 according to Köbberling et al.)

▪ **But: The consequences resulting from the test outcomes are not associated with a benefit.**

## Linked evidence

**Medical Services Advisory Committee**  
*Guidelines for the assessment of diagnostic technologies*  
August 2005



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