

## Specialised ambulant palliative care for children and youth in Lower Saxony (SAPV-KJ)

Since April 2007 specialised ambulant palliative care is an individual service of the public health insurance. It is applicable to patients with non-curable or progressing diseases with limiting expectancy of life (§ 37 b SGB V).

The SAPV service is organised in order to complement the existing care service through the health system. It applies to individual patients in case of need due to complex symptomatic conditions.

The SAPV service can be used either continuously or at intervals. The service includes optionally the following work:

- Advisory service
- Coordination of care services
- The service can be used in addition to existing care

The palliative care for children and youth comprises a number of specific requirements differing from the care for adults. This involves a specialised pediatric support team including medical, psychosocial and caring staff. These specialised teams are located at different points in Lower Saxony. The central office coordinates the organisation and administrative work for these teams.

Families often mention the wish to reduce the number and duration of hospital stays and to secure good caring conditions for the severely ill children at home. This is the aim we work for.



## Prescription of SAPV-KJ

Prescriptions for SAPV-KJ service can be signed by pediatricians as well as general practitioners. They can also be prescribed after discharge from hospital.

The prescription has to be signed by a parent and can be handed in at the central office. After approval from the health insurance the service is free of charge for the patient.

## Who can apply for SAPV-KJ

Since April 2007 all patients insured by the public health system who have a non-curable, progressive or highly advanced disease have the right to use SAPV. SAPV is an additional service to ambulant care, in care pediatricians and general practitioners as well as local care services are not able to supply sufficient support during crises.

## We are here for you and

- analyse together with you the needs for your family
- support through the prescription of medication and aids
- discuss together with your family the aims of the therapy
- if needed we coordinate the therapy and treatment through the different services (care service, psychotherapists, curing aids etc.)
- visit you at home and teach you about the usage of medication and aids
- advice the family, pediatrician and care service on the treatment of symptoms
- we are available through our telephone hotline around the clock
- support families, patients and siblings through psychosocial support and as contact person

## Structures of specialised ambulant palliative care for children and youth

In Lower Saxony the coordination of SAPV-KJ is organised via a central office, acting on behalf of the regional teams in Braunschweig, Göttingen, Hannover, Oldenburg, Osnabrück and Syke. The teams work closely with local care services and organisations and add supplementary services on demand.

Contact for the pediatric palliative care teams in Lower Saxony:

**[koordinierungsbuero@betreuungsnetz.org](mailto:koordinierungsbuero@betreuungsnetz.org)**