

INTERNAL RULES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE NEPHROLOGY

(approved at the SSN Board meeting of 14.09.2023)

Working group on SUSTAINABLE NEPHROLOGY (WG-SN)

Nephrology, especially dialysis, leaves an important ecological footprint with regard to electricity and water consumption, greenhouse gas and waste production. In these times of climate change, worldwide pollution and scarceness of classic energy sources, action is required. At a European level, initiatives such as the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) or the Sustainable Kidney Care Committee in the UK are ongoing, but in Switzerland actions are thus far limited to local, mostly monocentric projects.

Preamble

The working group prepares internal rules, which will be submitted to the SSN Board for approval. The working group works under the responsibility of the SSN.

Aims of the working group

1. Stimulate collaboration and networking between nephrology health care workers (nephrologists, nurses, technicians, administrators,...), manufacturers and environmental experts in Switzerland, in order to preserve human resources and reduce the ecological impact of nephrology centers, with an emphasis on (but not limited to) renal replacement therapies.
2. Provide practical recommendations for nephrology centers on how to reduce their waste products, water- and energy-consumption.
3. Stimulate interdisciplinary research in the field of sustainable ("green") nephrology.
4. Raise awareness of the ecological burden of nephrology at the general public and policy makers.
5. Interact with international initiatives such as EKHA and the Green Nephrology Committee of the ERA-EDTA.

Definition of the interaction

The working group reports at regular intervals, at least yearly, to the SSN Board.

Structure of the working group

President

Members: nephrology health care workers, patients.

Experts: at least one representative of each of the following categories: environment specialist, engineer, chemist, policymaker, industry.

Members list

The list will be published on the website of the Swiss Society of Nephrology (www.swissnephrology.ch) and updated yearly.

Election mode of the working group members

The President is proposed by the WG to the SSN General Assembly for a 2-year office term and can be re-elected twice. The proposition must arrive until latest end of June in the election year

at the SSN office. The board can inform SSN members about a vacancy of Presidency until 1 of September in the election year. SSN members can apply for the vacant post until latest 30th of Sept in the election year. Qualified candidates can then be submitted for election to the General Assembly of SSN. The members of the WG are elected by the WG. SSN membership is not required to be a member of the WG. The WG aims at representing different groups of nephrology health care workers: nurses, technicians, administrators, cleaning personnel and nephrologists. Participation of young persons (<40 years) is encouraged. The number of members is limited to 30 persons; maximum duration of their membership to the WG is 8 years. The working group will include 4-10 experts. The experts are either environmental experts, engineers, chemists, legal experts, representatives from providers or policymakers. Participation of representatives from providers of nephrology equipment as experts is essential to assure a bridge between the industry stakeholders and consumers.	
Internal vote modalities During voting, in case of an equal number of votes, the President has the casting vote. For a valid decision, 50% of the members must be present.	
Number of meetings per year At least three meetings are organized per year. Online meetings are preferred, for ecological reasons.	
Minutes of meetings A PV is written within 14 days after each meeting, followed by 14 days for approval. PVs will reach the SSN Board within max. 30 days after each meeting.	
Diffusion of information of the working group publications by the working groups All publications and notifications will be submitted to the SSN Board before publication. Working group decisions and recommendations are open to all SSN members (website or mailings). A mandatory yearly report will be submitted to the SSN board and included in the annual report presented at the ordinary SSN general meeting of members.	
Admission or dissolution The General Assembly of the SSN decides about admission or dissolution of the working group.	
Distribution of communications All SSN communications are after consultation with the SSN president or secretary, and exclusively sent via the Administration.	
Financial aspects The WG has no financial interests. The president and its members will declare possible personal financial interests and dependencies before taking office and anytime such interests appear. Projects and Co-working with companies (Pharmaceutical, Med-Tech) must adhere to the specific rules of the FMH.	
Date: 6th of June, 2023 : validated by all WG members. Correction 4.11.2025	
President: Stephan Segerer	