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## **Endometriosis Research Foundation (SEF) Criteria 2022 for recognition as a Certified Endometriosis Centre**

**"Endometriosis Centre certified by the Endometriosis Research Foundation":**

Three levels are defined in the SEF / EEL level concept:

### **1. Endometriosis Practice**

(formerly Endometriosis Centre, certified Rehabilitation Clinic, or certified Fertility Centre) corresponds to the Endometriosis Consultation according to the AWMF guidelines

### **2. Endometriosis Unit**

(formerly Endometriosis Centre with a single endometriosis surgeon) corresponds to the Endometriosis Unit according to the AWMF guidelines

### **3. Endometriosis Centre**

(formerly Clinical Endometriosis Centre or Clinical and Scientific Endometriosis Centre) corresponds to the Endometriosis Centre according to the AWMF guidelines

## **Endometriosis Practice** (Specialist Practice, Fertility Centre, Rehabilitation Clinic)

### ► **Structural prerequisites**

- Guideline-compliant diagnostics, therapy and counselling
- Participation in interdisciplinary endometriosis conferences or documented case consultations with the Endometriosis Centre (except Rehabilitation Clinic<sup>1</sup>)
- Cooperation with an Endometriosis Centre
- Cooperation with a fertility clinic, IVF centre
- Cooperation with a practice for psychosomatics / pain therapy / physiotherapy
- Cooperation with the Endometriosis Association Germany e.V. and/or local self-help group (if available)

### ► **Personnel requirements**

- Head must be a specialist in gynaecology
- Proof of qualification with
  - Endo I and Endo II (basic course, AGEM advanced course)  
see also <https://www.ag-endometriose.de/aus-und-fortbildung>
  - or certificate after SEF qualification course
- Proof of further training
  - Attendance of at least one endometriosis continuing education course per year
  - (DEK, EEK, WES, SEF annual conference).
  - Recommended: Attendance at congresses with an endometriosis session (DGGG, AGE, FOG, DVR, ESHRE, etc.)
  - Alternatively: at least one day work shadowing in an endometriosis centre.

### ► **Requirements**

- Evidence of at least 50 patients treated per year
- Documentation
  - Use of an endometriosis questionnaire for medical history and symptoms (see questionnaire in the DGGG endometriosis guidelines)
  - Annual submission of a minimum data set (basic documentation)

## **Endometriosis Unit** (Clinic or day clinic)

### ► **Structural requirements**

- Guideline-compliant diagnostics, therapy and counselling
- Implementation of surgical treatments
- Carrying out interdisciplinary endometriosis case discussions (at least radiology, abdominal surgery)
- Cooperation with an Endometriosis Centre
- Cooperation with a fertility clinic, IVF centre
- Cooperation with a practice for psychosomatics / pain therapy / physiotherapy
- Cooperation with the Endometriosis Association Germany e.V. and/or local self-help group (if available)

### ► **Personnel requirements**

- Head must be a specialist in gynaecology
- Head must be a designated surgeon
- Proof of qualification through
  - Endometriosis diploma (AGEM basic course, AGEM advanced course)
  - or certificate after SEF qualification course
  - AGEM<sup>2</sup> "Endometriosis master class"
- Certificate of continuing education for designated surgeons
  - Attendance at at least one endometriosis continuing education course per year (DEK, EEK, WES, SEF annual conference).
  - Recommended: Attendance at congresses with an endometriosis session (DGGG, AGE, FOG, DVR, ESHRE, etc.)
  - Alternatively: at least one day work shadowing in an endometriosis centre.

### ► **Requirements**

- Proof of at least 100 patients treated per year
  - of which at least 50<sup>3</sup> patients underwent surgery
  - designated endometriosis surgeons with at least 30 operated or responsibly assisted cases per year
  - or, if the number of cases is just above the minimum, one endometriosis surgeon with 50 operated or responsibly assisted cases per year

- Proof of at least one further training course (including further in-house training) on the subject of endometriosis for doctors and medical staff within 3 years.
- **Documentation**
  - Carrying out a structured anamnesis (e.g. questionnaire according to the AWMF endometriosis guidelines)
  - Submission of a structured annual report according to guidelines
  - SOP on conservative treatment should be prepared

### **Endometriosis Centre** <sup>4</sup>

In addition to the "Endometriosis Unit" includes:

#### **► Structural requirements**

- Performing complex and interdisciplinary surgery
- Implementation of interdisciplinary endometriosis conferences - also for external and cooperation partners - once a month.  
(or documented interdisciplinary case discussions)
- Centres with supra-local and/or inter-hospital tasks and/or with exceptional personnel and technical requirements

#### **► Research and further education**

- Within 3 years: 1 original paper (listed in the Web of Science®, first or second author must come from the centre)  
or participation in a clinical study (multicentre study with ethics vote) involving at least one patient  
or an ongoing externally funded project.
- In addition, at least 1 assignment per year as a speaker (abstract, lecture, poster)  
or the publication of a review paper  
or a case report  
or a book chapter

#### **► Personnel requirements**

- The director or a designated surgeon must have an additional qualification in the field of endometriosis (e.g. AGEM qualification courses)

- Demonstrable expertise in the field of minimally invasive surgery (comparable to MIS 2).
- Or have a specialist qualification in “gynaecological oncology” or “gynaecological endocrinology” or have a comparable country-specific qualification

### ► Requirements

- In addition to the endometriosis clinic
  - A total of 100<sup>3</sup> patients who undergo surgery\*
    - o including 10 cases with infiltrating spread beyond organs (bladder, intestine, ureter)
  - 10 documented interdisciplinary treatment plans
  - Proof of at least one further training course (including further in-house training) on the subject of endometriosis for doctors and medical staff per year.
- Documentation
  - Carrying out and documenting a structured anamnesis (e.g.. use of the AWMF endometriosis guideline questionnaire).
  - Submission of a structured annual report according to guidelines
  - Data entry form for scientific questions (e.g., IEEP questionnaire)
  - SOP on conservative treatment must be prepared - how to proceed with patients after previous surgical endometriosis treatment must be defined.

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\* Cases means: patients, i.e. a patient can only be counted as an operation once within a 12-month period

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>= the criteria according to the Rehabilitation Working Group "Rehab Therapy Standards Endometriosis" apply here.

<sup>2</sup>= update of the requirement depending on the options offered by the AGEM

**<sup>3</sup>= Counting rules for surgical cases:**

1. Only patients < 50 years of age count.
2. Each patient can only be assigned to one surgeon/responsible 1st assistant.
3. Designated surgeons must perform or responsibly assist in at least 30 surgical procedures per year.
4. At least 80% of elective surgical endometriosis procedures at the centre should be performed/responsibly assisted by designated surgeons.
5. Histology must be available in all cases.
6. Hysterectomies count if the indication is dysmenorrhoea and histology proves adenomyosis (100%).
7. For laparoscopies (without hysterectomy), a false negative rate of up to 20% is accepted for histology.

An anonymised list of surgical procedures must be attached to the certification application by all centres with less than 200 surgical cases per year and can also be downloaded from the SEF page / EuroEndoCert page.

**<sup>4</sup>= Centres with several sites:**

Existing structures are protected. It is not permissible that the clinic is certified, and non-certified attending physicians operate on endometriosis patients there.

The following applies to several locations in the future:

- A qualified centre manager and a name for the centre at two or more locations.
- The network must be identical for all locations.
- Otherwise, two centres, each of which is audited separately and must meet all certification criteria at both sites.

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For patient information, each centre must provide the following information, regardless of the level, and **confirm or update it annually:**

1. The name of the physician who is the primary contact person and his/ her representative, if any
2. Telephone number for appointments in the Endometriosis Clinic
3. Fax number and E-Mail for the transmission of results and for written enquiries.

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*Since 2006, anyone interested can apply to the Endometriosis Research Foundation (SEF) for recognition as an endometriosis centre. It is certified by the SEF, the EEL and the EVD e.V. (German Endometriosis Association e.V.) and in Austria by the EVA (Austrian Endometriosis Association) and in Switzerland by Endo-Help (Swiss Endometriosis Association). EuroEndoCert has been commissioned to carry out the certification since autumn 2016 ([www.euro-endocert.de](http://www.euro-endocert.de)).*

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