

An aerial night photograph of a large, illuminated prison complex in a city. The prison buildings are brightly lit, contrasting with the dark sky and the dimly lit surrounding urban area. The complex consists of several interconnected buildings and courtyards, all enclosed within a perimeter wall. The surrounding city is visible in the background, with various residential and commercial buildings scattered across the landscape. The overall scene is a mix of urban architecture and institutional structures.

# Remote Medical Care in the Penitentiary System of Bavaria

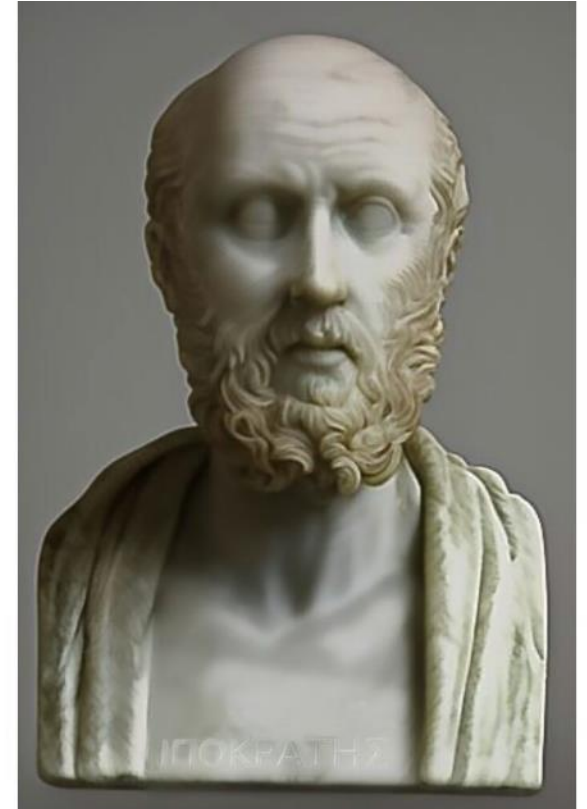
Field report from a medical perspective

Gregor Groß - Psychiatric Department - Straubing Prison

28th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS). Berlin (Germany) , 6 June 2023

# Medical Examination Standards

- Professional Code of Conduct
  - consent
  - doctor-patient confidentiality
  - documentation requirements
  - suitable examination and treatment methods



# Examination Methods

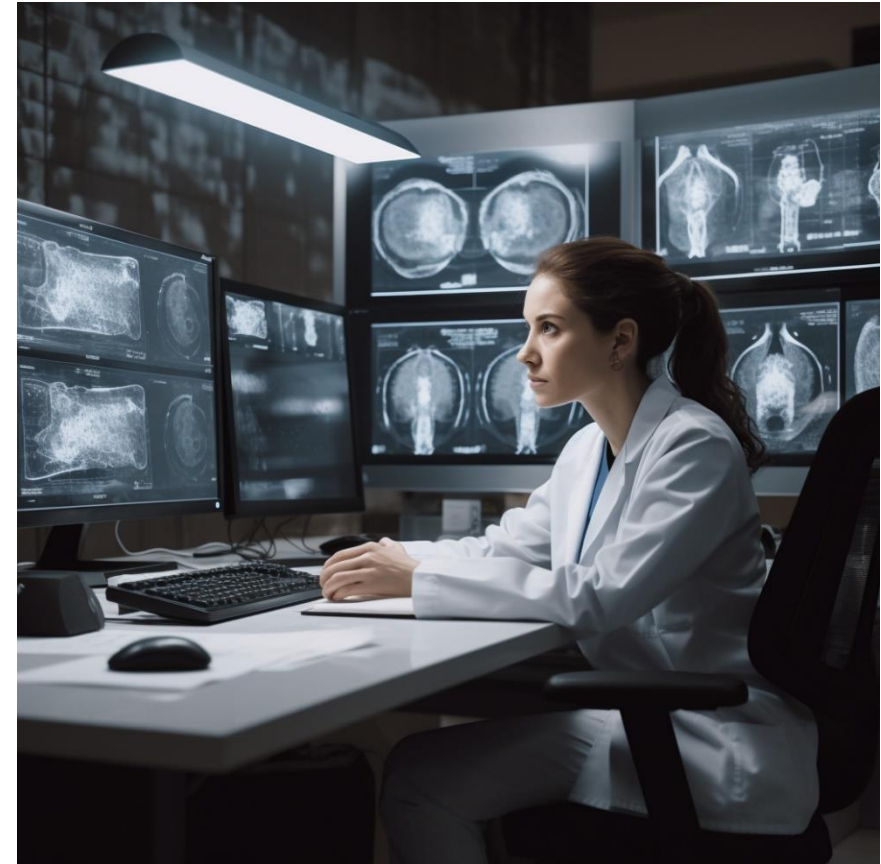
- **medical history**
- inspection
- auscultation
- technical findings
  - ultrasound, ECG, EEG, laboratory findings, X-ray
- palpation
- interpersonal contact
- functional examination
- **percussion**
- **smell, taste**



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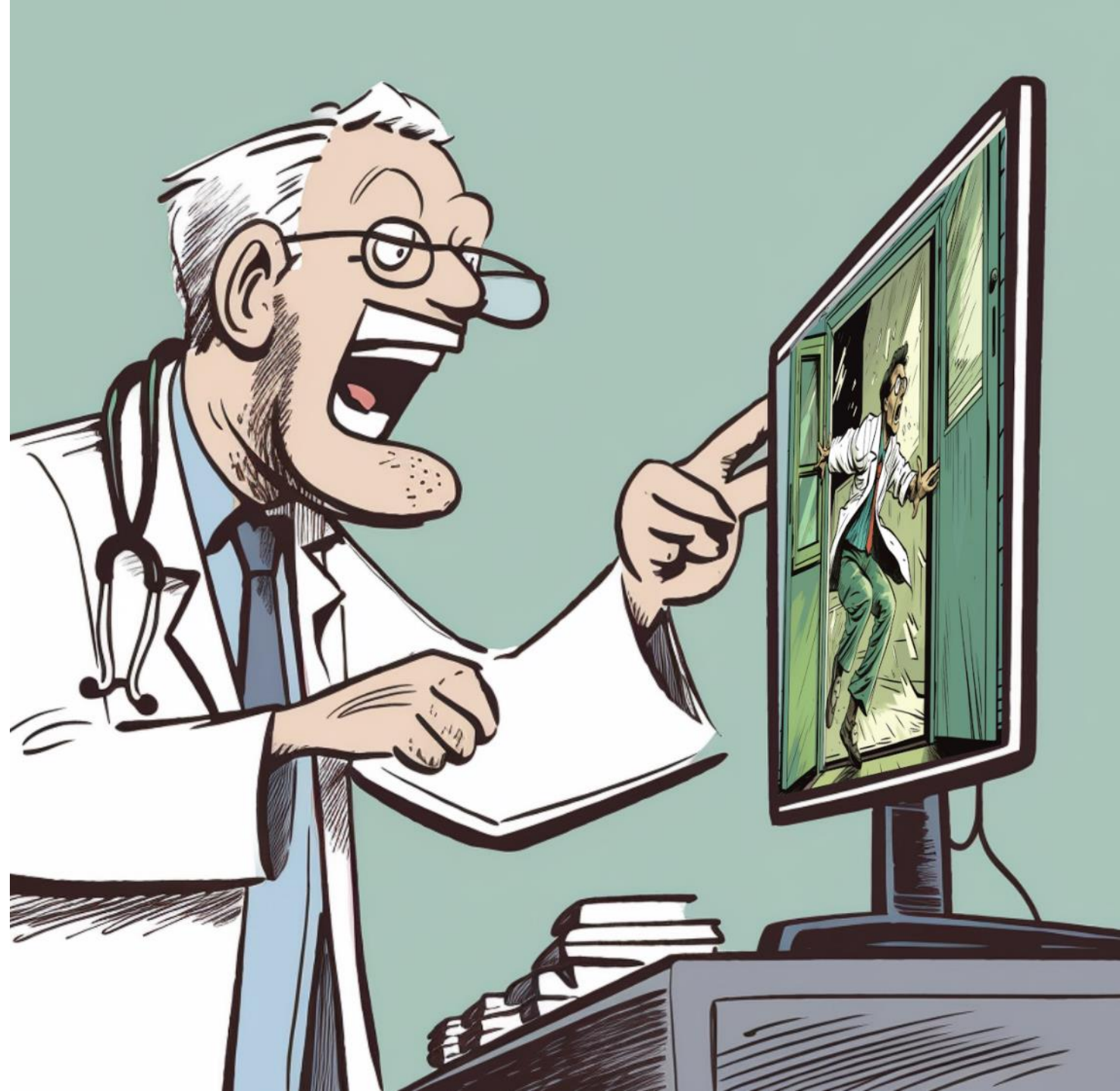
# Telemedicine Development in Bavaria

- TEMPiS (Telemedical Project for Integrated Stroke Care; 2003)
- pilot projects for telemedical on-call service (A+ Videoclinic, 2019)
  - good acceptance
- from 2020, part of standard medical care
  - general medicine, psychiatry, psychotherapy, orthopedics, surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, anesthesiology, addiction medicine, ...
- partly with foreign-language doctors/therapists or integration of an interpreting service



# Principles

- no regular doctor is going to be displaced
- only if no doctor available or to relieve workload
- collaboration with on-site paramedics or medically experienced personnel



# No Doctor on Site

- Physician deficit but obligation to provide care at specialist standard
- staff must make decisions themselves
- external hospital → risk of escape
- underestimation of intramural treatment possibilities
- prison doctor often has an unofficial 24/7 on-call service



# Benefits from Telemedicine

- few extramural examinations (hospital admission rate 3%)
- at any time, access to physicians experienced in prison medicine
- vacation and weekend replacement of the prison physician
- good acceptance in facilities without a physician or limited physician availability
- rapid availability of medical specialists
- availability of foreign languages



# Typical Cases

- entrance examinations
- back pain, toothache, headache, urinary tract infections
- addiction medicine, withdrawal from alcohol and various drugs
- supervision of substitution / substitution consultations
- exclusion of myocardial infarction
- guidance for first aid measures
- psychiatric diagnostics, suicidality
- psychotherapy





# Limitations

- vaccinations
- intravenous administration of drugs
- quality of findings collected by auxiliaries
- forced treatment
- monitoring of patients restrained in bed
- integration of the telemedical physicians into the staff
- each institution has special needs that must be taken into account

