

## **The application of ward-equivalent treatment in German General psychiatries – A qualitative study –**

### **Abstract**

The research project aims to provide an insight into the application of the innovative care model of ward-equivalent psychiatric treatment (StäB) in German General psychiatries. It intends to identify common core components and structural differences in the application of ward-equivalent psychiatric treatment.

For this purpose the research question "How is ward-equivalent psychiatric treatment applied in German General psychiatries?" will be answered from the perspective of psychosocial professionals. Hereby, the core elements target group, therapy and multiprofessional treatment team will be examined in more detail. The qualitative research paradigm was chosen as a research approach for this purpose and conducted by using the method of problem-centred interviews.

It turns out that the legal framework conditions serve as the basic structure for the application of ward-equivalent psychiatric treatment. However, the clinics of the ward-equivalent treatment have room for designing single treatment components. On the one hand, this results in high congruence on the selection of the target group and content of therapy. On the other hand, structural differences can also be identified in some cases with regard to the organization and structure of the multiprofessional treatment team and the organization of therapy.

This freedom of design enables the clinics of ward-equivalent treatment to adapt the range of treatment to existing regional care structures and the needs of patients. The acute home treatment can therefore offer people with severe mental illnesses the chance to mitigate the consequences of their illness in a self-determined manner and to break through the effect of revolving door psychiatry. However, this requires open-mindedness and willingness to change on both of the patients' and the psychiatric clinics' sides.