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The AdaptNet Climate-Health Toolbox: A Comprehensive Multi-Component Framework to Strengthen Climate Resilience in Outpatient Healthcare in Germany

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Healthcare systems across Europe face growing challenges from climate-related hazards such as heatwaves, extreme precipitation, poor air quality, allergen exposure, and vector-borne diseases. To support outpatient medical practices in adapting to these risks, the AdaptNet project developed the AdaptNet Climate-Health Toolbox, a comprehensive, practice-oriented suite of tools designed to build climate resilience within primary and specialist care. Developed jointly with ambulatory physicians, the toolbox integrates scientific evidence with pragmatic operational guidance and is freely accessible online (<https://www.gesundheitsnetznuernberg.de/adaptnet-klima-toolbox/>).

The toolbox consists of several complementary modules. An interactive nationwide risk map enables users to assess present and future climate-related health risks for any German region, covering hazards such as heat, floods, air pollution, allergens, wildfires, and vectors. Downloadable checklists provide actionable recommendations for extreme weather events, power outages, and heat preparedness, supporting structured team-based adaptation planning. A basic online training introduces essential climate-health knowledge, while advanced training modules deepen practical implementation through case-based learning and support for quality circles and workshops.

To enhance clinical management, the toolbox includes a heat-focused medication review tool, helping practitioners identify and adjust risk-relevant drugs during heat periods. For patient communication, customizable “info-prescriptions” on heat and pollen, posters, flyers, and waiting room videos convey clear behavioural guidance and increase awareness during high-risk periods. All components are designed for simple integration into routine workflows and can be adapted to local needs. Collectively, the toolbox provides a structured pathway for practices, from risk assessment to team coordination, patient counselling, and medical decision support, to strengthen resilience to climate change impacts.

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