

Cost accounting according to REKOLE®

for hospitals, psychiatric and rehabilitation clinics
Healthcare



Swiss healthcare institutions find themselves in an ever-increasing competitive environment: ensuring a valid data basis for operational and strategic management is therefore indispensable in order to remain successful in the market in the future.

Why is cost accounting according to REKOLE® necessary?

REKOLE® (Revision der Kostenrechnung und Leistungserfassung) is a uniform and recognized standard for operational accounting in hospitals and clinics throughout Switzerland. Cost accounting according to REKOLE® runs in a 4-year cycle (see Figure 1) and thus fulfills the following objectives:

- Cantonal requirements: A REKOLE® certificate is now required by many cantons as proof of compliance with the cost accounting standard in order to remain on the hospital list in the future. It also forms the basis for rate negotiations.
- Transparency and comparability: The aim of REKOLE® is to create a source-based cost accounting system that transparently shows the costs and services per case across different hospitals and clinics, thus allowing comparisons of case costs throughout Switzerland.

A cost accounting system according to REKOLE® is the basis for operative and strategic management decision

A cost accounting system based on causation forms the basis for the internal management/operative control of the hospital or clinic and fact-based decisions by the management. This includes, for example:

- Comprehensive contribution margin calculations at various levels
- Targeted, periodic reporting to management personnel
- Constructive controlling dialog with the cost center managers including target setting
- Basis for decentralized budgeting
- Valuation basis for investments, cooperations as well as pricing of services to third parties

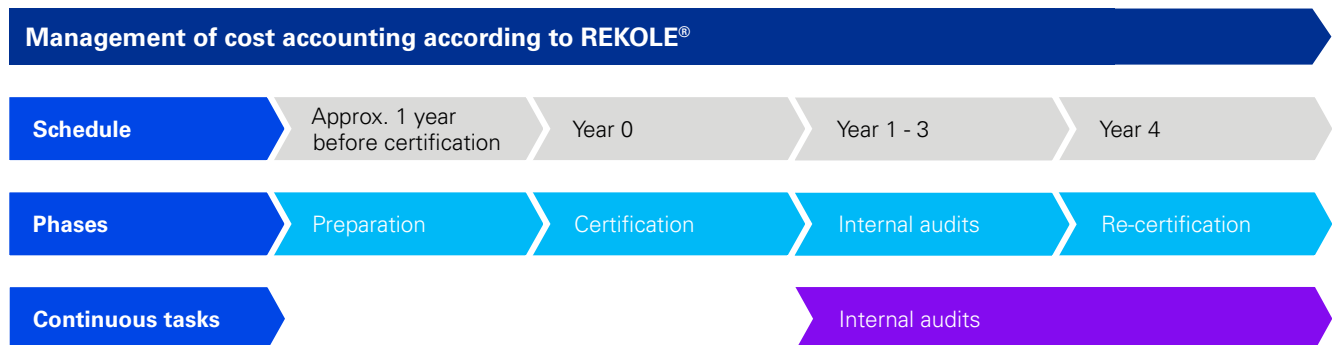


Figure 1: REKOLE® cycle

What are the challenges in implementing REKOLE®?

Implementing cost accounting according to the REKOLE® standard is a very demanding and time-consuming task. Especially the following three areas are considered by our customers again and again as particularly challenging in the implementation:

Service recording: Correct service recording is one of the core elements of source-based billing at the cost unit level. This includes recording the services of medical, nursing and therapeutic activities as well as the individual costs of materials and medications. On the one hand, it is important to meet the REKOLE® regarding completeness, causation and cost unit reference and cost unit reference, but at the same time to reduce the internal recording effort for the employees in a cost-benefit ratio that is as balanced as possible.

University teaching and research: For the complete elimination of costs for university teaching and research, an activity survey of the employees for education and training as well as research activities must be carried out in addition to the calculation of material and facility utilization costs.

REK Decisions: The cost accounting standard REKOLE® has undergone continuous development in recent years. In addition to the generally applicable H+ manual, new REK decisions are issued on a regular basis. Even after successful certification, it is important to observe these, to check their relevance for one's own institution and, if necessary, to plan and tackle their implementation at an early stage.

How we can support you

As an H+ accredited audit body and based on our many years of experience in the field of cost accounting, we are happy to support you in the following areas:

REKOLE® Coaching: You would like to change your cost accounting to REKOLE®? In a professional coaching we uncover possible weaknesses or non-conformities and support you in the implementation of a REKOLE®-compliant cost accounting.

REKOLE® Quick Checks: Your cost accounting is already at a good level, but you would like to discuss the status quo, specific topics or implemented REK decisions with an expert? In a structured Quick Check, we show you the existing need for action in a targeted manner.

REKOLE® certifications and internal REKOLE® audits: We carry out initial certifications and re-certifications as well as internal audits in accordance with the corresponding audit specifications of H+. During a certification audit, we also show you ways to optimize your cost accounting.

Review and optimization of your cost accounting: Would you like to use your cost accounting more actively for financial management in the future? We show you which possibilities are target-oriented for your institution and support you in the implementation.

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