



André Seidenberg was a general practitioner in Zurich and one of the leading voices of the Swiss drug policy. He guided the abolition of the prohibition policy against the needle and syringe supply in Switzerland in the mid eighties. He built up the first low threshold methadone maintenance clinic in Switzerland (Arud) and initiated a demand covering offer with methadone based treatment. He proposed the Swiss heroin trial and was the head of the first involved clinic. He designed and developed computerised prescription and dosing systems for opioids. He was a member of the safety assurance group of the Swiss heroin trial (PROVE). He is also the author of a manual for the ambulant treatment of opioid addicts with methadone, heroin and other opioids and worked for the Swiss federal office of public health. In March 1999, the Federal Court of Switzerland accepted Seidenberg's appeal. A private general practitioner can in exceptional cases be licensed to treat also heroin addicted patients in extreme situations with heroin.