

Data protection information for the German Rheumatology Congress 2026

Dear visitors,

The protection of your personal data and your trust are important to us. The following statement provides an overview of how we ensure this protection and what type of data we collect for what purpose.

Responsible parties

The following parties are jointly responsible for the processing of personal data collected when you visit this website and in connection with your participation in the congress:

Rheumatologische Fortbildungsakademie GmbH

Wilhelmine-Gemberg-Weg 6, Aufgang C, 10179 Berlin ('Rheumaakademie' or 'we').

You can reach us at 030 - 24 04 84 – 80 or

by email at info@rhkongress.de and info@rheumaakademie.de.

and the

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rheumatologie und Klinische Immunologie e. V.

Wilhelmine-Gemberg-Weg 6, Entrance C, 10179 Berlin ('DGRh' or 'we').

You can reach us at 030 - 24 04 84 - 70

or by email at info@dgrh.de.

We have concluded a joint responsibility agreement. You can request the essential contents of the agreement using the contact details provided.

The Rheumaakademie is your preferred point of contact for further information.

Usage data

When you visit our website, we temporarily store so-called usage data on the basis of Art. 6 (1) (f) of the General Data Protection Regulation. We use the usage data for statistical purposes to improve the quality of our website and for security purposes (defence against server attacks). We also use this information to enable access to our website, to monitor and administer our systems, and to improve the design of the website. These purposes pursued by us also constitute a legitimate interest within the meaning of Article 6 (1) (f) of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The data record consists of:

- the page from which the file was requested
- the name of the file
- the date and time of the request
- the amount of data transferred
- the access status (file transferred, file not found)
- the description of the type of web browser used
- the IP address of the requesting computer, truncated by the last two digits

Permissions & Push Notifications

In our online congress and in our congress app, you can voluntarily grant access permission to your calendar in order to save event favourites in your calendar.

Our congress app also uses push services from operating system manufacturers. These are short messages that are displayed on the screen of your mobile device with your consent and provide you with up-to-date information about the congress, such as 'Congress opening: We look forward to your participation. Hall 1, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.'. When using the push

services, Apple's device token or Google's registration ID is exchanged. The purpose of their use is to provide the push services.

You can activate this authorisation and push notifications in the settings and deactivate them at any time by moving the slider. The legal basis for this data processing is your consent in accordance with Art. 6 (1) (a) GDPR.

Congress registration and congress information

You can register to participate in the German Rheumatology Congress 2026 and manage your bookings on the congress portal m-anage, as well as exclusively for individual bookings in the congress app and in the online congress. The conference service provider for m-anage, the congress app and the online congress, M Events Cross Media GmbH, will send us the data stored in your m-anage user account for the purpose of managing your registration and participation in our congress. If you have stored more data in your m-anage account than we require, we will still have access to this data.

In order to guarantee your registration and the running of the event, we require the following information from you: tariff selection, first and last name, email address, full address (company, street, postcode, town, country), address group (business or private), members of professional circles within the meaning of the HWG, §§2, 10, discount codes (optional) and proof of verification of the selected tariff (mandatory for reduced tariffs).

When you purchase a ticket, we store the invoice number, the date and time of completion of the order, and the payment method (credit card, invoice). When you enter your account details, we are supported by our payment gateway provider Computop Paygate GmbH, which stores your account details for us as part of order processing. For each registration where the participation fee is invoiced, we require the following information from you for invoicing and, if necessary, postal delivery of the invoice: title (gender), title, first and last name, company, address. We also require this data in order to issue you with a certificate of participation in accordance with the requirements of your respective state medical association so that you can receive your continuing education credits.

We also use the country in which you live and the city for statistical purposes in accordance with Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR, based on our interest in participant statistics for our congress.

If you do not require an invoice or certificate of attendance, you do not need to fill in the fields for title, gender and EFN.

Depending on the tariff you choose, we will need either your club membership number, your student ID card, proof of your employment in a medical assistant profession, proof that you are a doctoral candidate, or a copy of your press card for verification purposes.

If there are at least five participants, you can also set up a group account and register a group. If you would like a billing address, we will collect the following information from you: first and last name, company, address, city, country (mandatory information). You can voluntarily provide your department to specify the billing address.

For group registrations, the group supervisors upload the list with the participants' details themselves. This data is then imported into our system and we manage your participant data as described above.

The purpose of this data processing is to process your registration, organise your participation and handle payments for the congress. The legal basis for this processing is Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR.

The legal basis for the transfer of your data to the medical association responsible for you is Art. 6 (1) (e) GDPR in conjunction with the respective Medical Professions Act of the federal states.

We use your email address to send you the latest congress information. After the contractual relationship has ended, we use your email address to inform you about further events. You can object to this use at any time. The legal basis for data processing is our legitimate interest in advertising to existing customers in accordance with Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR in conjunction with Section 7 (2) (3) UWG (German Unfair Competition Act).

If you no longer wish to receive further information about our congress by email, you can object at any time in accordance with Art. 21 (1) and (3) GDPR. Please send your objection by email to: info@rhkongress.de. You will then no longer receive information about future congresses.

We use your telephone contact details in the event of a callback request on your part and for questions that cannot be answered in writing.

Managing your user account on the congress portal

You can manage the events you have booked in your user account. Your programme items and most recently viewed events are stored there. Your certificates for participation in the respective events are also stored there. You can access and download them there.

The following documents are available to you in digital form:

- Booked congress tickets with invoices
- Booking confirmation
- For bookings of 'Congress participation in person including online': collection slip with your personal QR code for collecting your congress documents at the congress venue
- Certificate of attendance / CME certificate and confirmation of attendance (only available electronically after the end of the congress).

The purpose of data processing is to organise and manage your account for the purpose of your participation in the congress. The legal basis for data processing is Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR (performance of a contract).

Abstract submission, selection process and publication

You can submit an abstract using your m-anage account. To submit and subsequently select abstracts, we require the abstract as a file and the following information from you and the other authors of the abstract: title, first name, surname, email address, company, city and country of the company. The recipient of the data is the Rheumatism Academy. Accepted abstracts will be published at the congress, on the congress website and congress app in an abstract volume and on the German Medical Science web portal of GMS gGmbH as another recipient of your data. In addition, the accepted abstracts will be handed over to the supporting companies so that they can be made available to congress participants on a USB stick. Once the selection process has been completed and the selected abstracts have been published at the congress, the abstract volume will be deleted after the end of the following congress (after approx. 12 months). The legal basis for this data processing can be found in Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR (performance of a contract).

Data processing in connection with the congress

In connection with your online participation in the congress, we process the duration of your participation in an online session. This 'tracking' is linked to your email address.

At the event venue, your attendance time is recorded by scanning your name badge at the designated stations when you enter and leave the building.

This data serves as proof of your attendance at the congress and for reporting continuing education credits to the Saxony State Medical Association. The legal basis for this tracking and the transfer of your data to the medical association responsible for you is Art. 6 (1) (e) GDPR in conjunction with the respective Heilberufe-Kammergesetz (Health Professions Chamber Act) of the federal states.

Data transfer to supporting companies

If you agree, you can voluntarily have your badge (QR code) scanned by the supporting companies. You can also visit the symposium / lecture / exhibitor without having your badge scanned. If you have your badge scanned, we will provide the company with your name and email address for the purpose of contacting you for feedback, advertising and information purposes. The legal basis for the transfer of data to the companies is your consent in accordance with Art. 6 (1) (a) GDPR. Your consent is voluntary and can be revoked at any time with effect for the future.

Video recording and publication for chairpersons and speakers

In addition to the live and online congress offerings, a restricted-access on-demand library for participants will be created for the 2026 German Rheumatology Congress on the m-anage congress portal operated by M Events Cross Media GmbH. This media library will contain recordings of your presentation (either on-site or as a webcast), including the live discussion. The webcast / on-site presentation will include the audio stream (sound track), PowerPoint presentation and moving images / photos / videos of the speaker, thus providing a complete representation of the presentation given at the congress. In the case of photo and video recordings, your appearance may reveal your ethnic origin, religion or health (skin colour, facial features, head coverings, wearing glasses). Only congress participants have access to the content of the media library. The legal basis for video recording and publication in the on-demand library is our legitimate interest (Article 6 (1) (f) GDPR) in documenting our events and making the speeches available on demand to interested parties even after the conference. You can object to the processing at any time. Please send your objection to info@rhkongress.de. We will remove the recording from the m-anage congress portal of M Events Cross Media GmbH at the end of 31 March 2027.

Video recording and publication for participants

Video recordings will be made in the conference rooms during the congress. The recordings may be made available as on-demand content on the m-anage congress portal or in the online congress of M Events Cross Media GmbH. In addition, the respective companies will receive a copy of the recording.

During the recordings, you as a participant may be recognisable in the image or sound, for example in room recordings or during discussion contributions. The webcast or on-site recording may therefore also capture your appearance, which may allow conclusions to be drawn about your ethnic origin, religion or health (skin colour, facial features, head coverings, wearing glasses).

The legal basis for the video recording and publication is our legitimate interest pursuant to Article 6 (1) (f) GDPR in documenting our events and making the content available to participants and participating companies after the conference. You can object to the processing at any time. Please send your objection to info@rhkongress.de. We will remove the relevant sequence from the media library, as far as technically possible. The on-demand content will remain available until 31 March 2027 and will then be deleted. The recipients of your data are our contracted service providers for production and hosting, in particular M Events Cross Media GmbH, and, in the case of company symposia, the respective organising companies.

Hotel reservation, childcare, participation in the supporting programme

As a speaker or chairperson, we ask you to provide information in your reply regarding accommodation (own accommodation or hotel reservation), childcare (age, number of children and days of childcare) and whether you would like to attend the congress evening. This information will be used to organise your stay at the congress. We also process your name, work email address and work postal address for the purpose of allocation and contacting you (in case there are new contact details that we do not yet have). If your work email address and work address have not changed, you do not need to fill in the fields again. The legal basis for data processing is Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR (performance of a contract). We generally delete your data no later than 60 months after the end of the contractual relationship, unless statutory retention periods prevent deletion.

Company profile

The contact details of the contact person you provide and information about the company will be published in your profile for the purpose of presenting your institution. The legal basis for data processing is Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR.

Digital conference bag

We provide participants with a digital conference bag containing information about the conference. This bag contains conference information (programme) and company advertising. As part of the digital conference bag, we forward your master data (name, email address) to our service provider M Events Cross Media GmbH, which is bound by our instructions and supports us in implementing the digital conference bag. You can access this after logging in to the m-anage conference portal, the online conference or the conference app. The legal basis for data processing is Article 6 (1) (b) of the GDPR.

Overall evaluation

When retrieving your certificates, you can voluntarily participate in a survey. As part of the evaluation, we process the data and assessments you provide for the purpose of evaluating and optimising our event. The information is anonymous. However, we are supported in the evaluation by an external service provider and, for the duration of the survey, it may be possible to identify individuals through technical data such as IP address, device recognition, etc. The legal basis for the processing of the data is Article 6 (1) (f) GDPR, based on our interest in optimising our events.

Session-based evaluation

As soon as you watch a live session, a button appears next to the player in the online congress, which you can use to rate the session. In addition, under 'My Congress' in the 'Evaluation and Certification' section, you will find a complete overview of the sessions you have attended, which you can also evaluate in this way. For on-demand content, the evaluation button is located directly above the detailed information for the respective session.

When you submit your evaluation, it will be assigned to your user profile on the m-anage congress portal. Our service provider, M Events Cross Media GmbH, only sends us the anonymised evaluation, so we cannot trace which evaluation you personally submitted. The evaluation and the associated provision of data is voluntary for you.

The legal basis for data processing is our legitimate interest (Article 6 (1) (f) GDPR) in evaluating and optimising our offering within the framework of the congress. Your personal evaluation in the m-anage congress portal will be deleted after the service provider has sent us the evaluation statistics.

Invitation to the President's Dinner

As part of the invitation process, you will receive an online form to register for the President's Dinner.

As part of the registration process, we will process your first and last name, your email address and your confirmation or cancellation of participation. The legal basis for the processing of this registration data is Art. 6 (1) (b) or (f) GDPR, based on our interest in organising the President's Dinner.

If you voluntarily provide information about existing allergies or intolerances in the online registration form, we will process this information exclusively for the purpose of individual menu selection. This constitutes special categories of personal data within the meaning of Art. 9 (1) GDPR. The legal basis for this processing is your consent in accordance with Art. 9 (2) (a) GDPR.

We use Microsoft Forms, an online application from Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited, to collect and process your registration data. The service enables your details to be recorded via a web-based input mask for the purpose of organising the President's Dinner.

Student programme application

You can send us your application documents for the student programme by email. Your application documents will be received by the relevant department and forwarded only to the specialist department responsible for the position in question or to the persons entrusted with processing the application. We use your application data to carry out the application process. We will delete your application documents no later than six months after completion of the application process, unless you have given us permission to do otherwise. The legal basis for data processing is Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR. If you have given us your consent to retain your application for a longer period of time, we will process the application documents on the basis of your consent. In this case, we will delete your application upon revocation, but no later than after three years.

Video conferencing via Zoom or Microsoft Teams

If you receive a link from us to a video conference via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, we will inform you here about the processing of your personal data in connection with the use of these video conferencing systems. You can find the relevant information under the following links:

Zoom: (<https://www.zoom.com/de/trust/privacy/privacy-statement/>)

Microsoft Teams: (<https://www.microsoft.com/de-de/privacy/privacystatement>)

Encryption

We use a modern encryption method to protect your data from unauthorised access. This prevents unauthorised persons from accessing the data.

Your data is then transferred from your device to the server and vice versa via the Internet using 256-bit TLS encryption (Transport Layer Security Version 1.2). You can recognise this by the closed padlock symbol in your browser's status bar and the address bar beginning with https://.

General contact

You can contact us by email or telephone. The data you provide will only be processed for the purpose of responding to your enquiry. It will only be passed on to third parties if this is necessary to process your enquiry. The legal basis for the use of your data is Article 6 (1) (f) of the General Data Protection Regulation. We have a legitimate interest in being in contact with users of the website and, where necessary, answering questions or sending information. Your data will be deleted after your enquiry has been answered.

Use of service providers

The Rheumatism Academy uses service providers to provide services and process your data before, during and after the congress (so-called contract processing). The service providers

process the data exclusively on the instructions of the Rheumatism Academy and are obliged to comply with the applicable data protection regulations. All processors have been carefully selected and only have access to your data to the extent and for the period of time necessary to provide the services.

Duration of data storage

We only store your data for as long as it is necessary for the provision of our services and there are no retention periods that prevent its deletion. We delete your data that we process in the context of event registration when it is no longer required for the provision of our services and there are no retention periods that prevent its deletion. We store your data for the preparation, follow-up and implementation of the congress. We generally delete your data no later than 60 months after the end of the contractual relationship, unless statutory retention periods prevent deletion. The retention periods for congress participant lists are 5 years based on the continuing education requirements for doctors. Your data will then be deleted. We have access to the data stored in your m-anage account for the duration of the contractually agreed cooperation between Rheumatologische Fortbildungsakademie GmbH and M Events Cross Media GmbH, which provides the portal. After termination of the contractual relationship, we will use your email address to inform you about further events. You can object to this use at any time.

Your rights as a user

As a user, you have the right to request information about what data we have stored about you and for what purpose it is stored. In addition, you can correct incorrect data or have data deleted whose storage is inadmissible or no longer necessary. You have the right to data portability and to request the restriction of the processing of your data. You also have the right to complain to a supervisory authority about the data processing that is taking place. If you have given us your consent, you have the right to revoke it at any time.

Right to object

In cases where we process your personal data on the legal basis of Article 6 (1) (e) or (f) GDPR, you have the right to object at any time on grounds relating to your particular situation. We will then no longer process the personal data unless there are demonstrable compelling legitimate grounds for the processing which override the interests, rights and freedoms of the data subject, or the processing serves to assert, exercise or defend legal claims. Please address your objection to: info@rhkongress.de

Data protection officer

Our company data protection officer is available to provide you with information or suggestions on the subject of data protection:

datenschutz nord GmbH

Web: www.datenschutz-nord.de

Email: office@datenschutz-nord.de