

# FRAGMENTED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM - SOLVING THE JIGSAW PUZZLE

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## OBJECTIVES

### INTRODUCTION:

Austria's Social Security System is divided into 13 sickness funds. The health care system is split into an intramural part that covers hospitals and an extramural part that consists of general practitioners (GPs), specialists and institutes. Every sickness fund has its own contract with the service providers of the extramural part and therefore an individual fee structure. To remain comparable the individual fee structures match on the so called Meta-Fee-Structure (see figure 1).

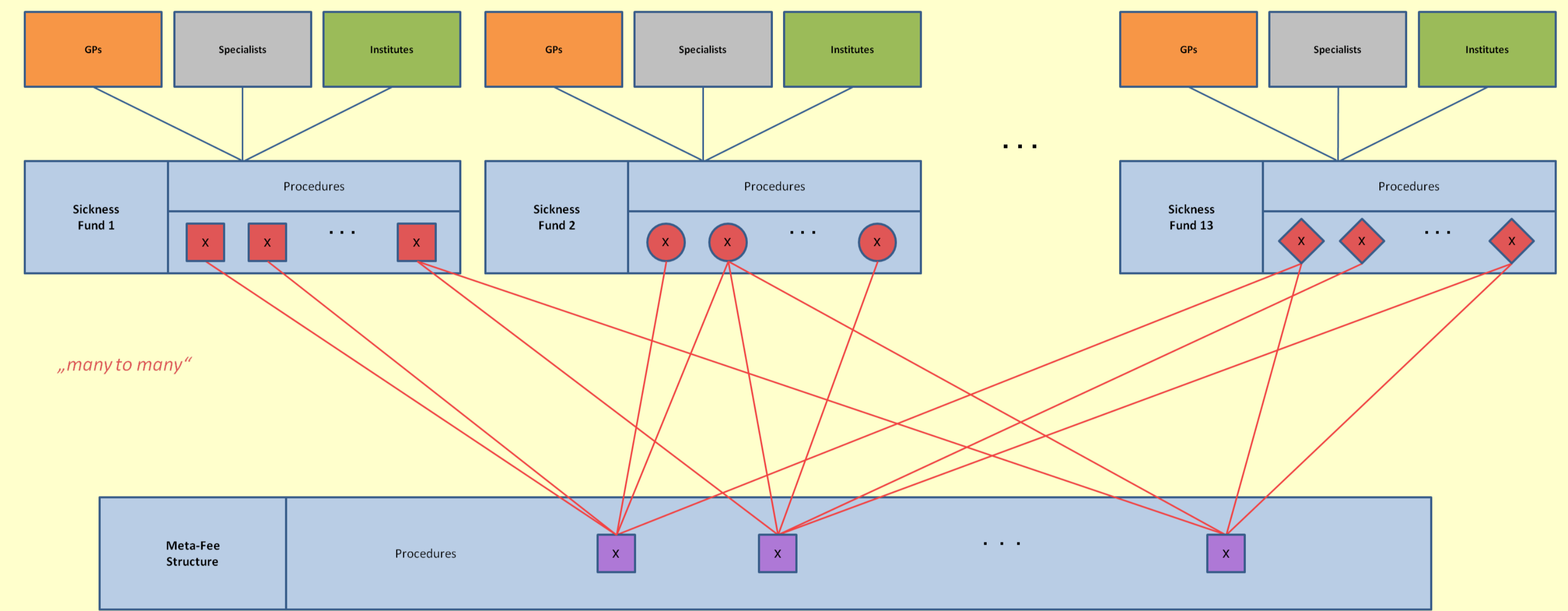


Figure 1: Visualization of Austria's health insurance system.

### AIM:

The major aim is to identify different fees and frequencies of single radiological medical services between sickness funds and between GPs, specialists and institutes.

Data: All radiological services from 2006 of the extramural part.

## METHODS

### EVALUATION 1:

Comparison of different Meta-Fee positions by summing up cost and frequency of all individual radiological services. The volume is the overall cost of all services in a position while the fee is calculated as the average cost of one single service (which is equal to the fraction of volume and frequency). Figure 2 and 3 show this situation from two different points of views.

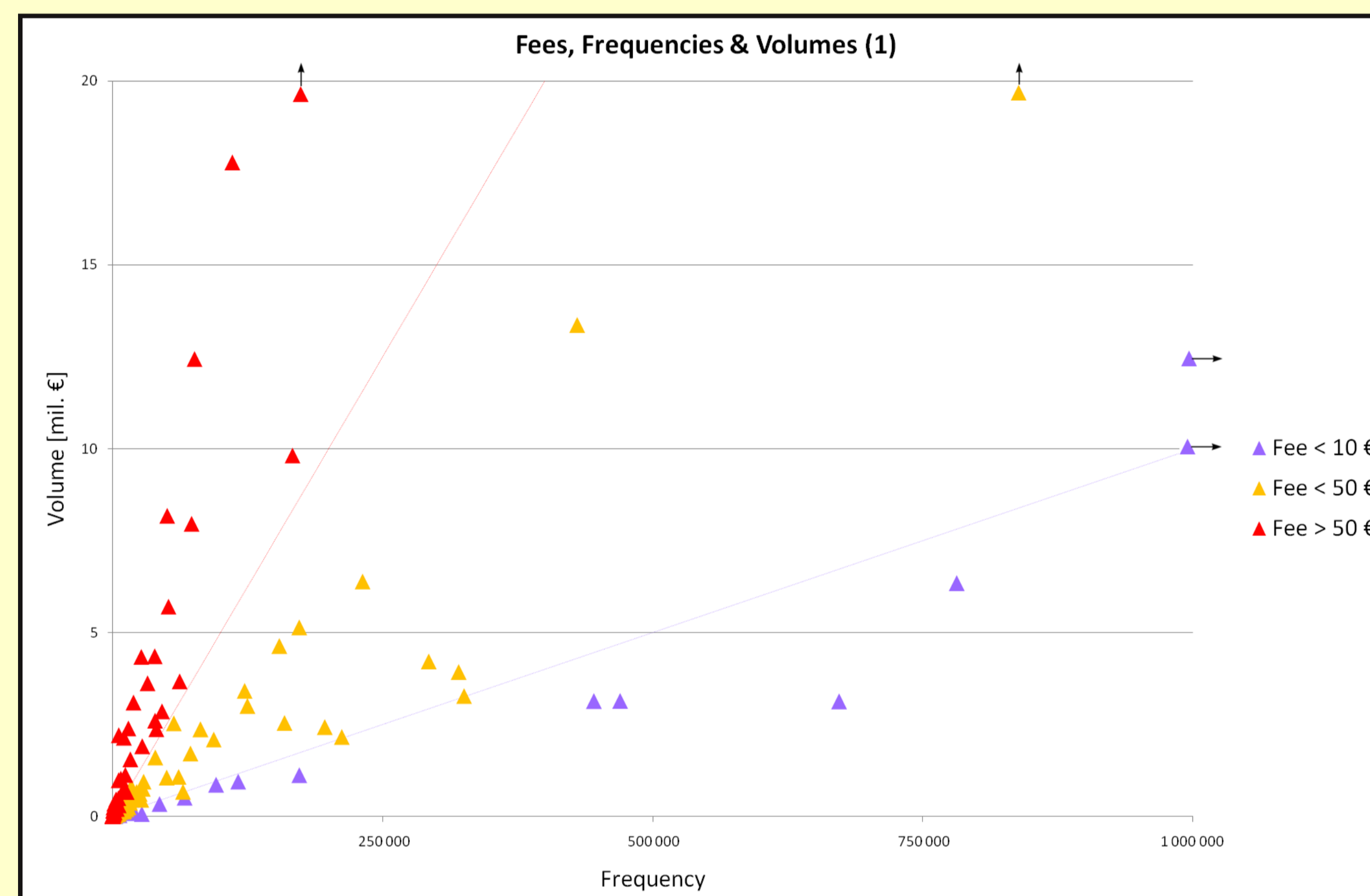


Figure 2: Fees, frequencies and volumes of the single meta-positions (1).

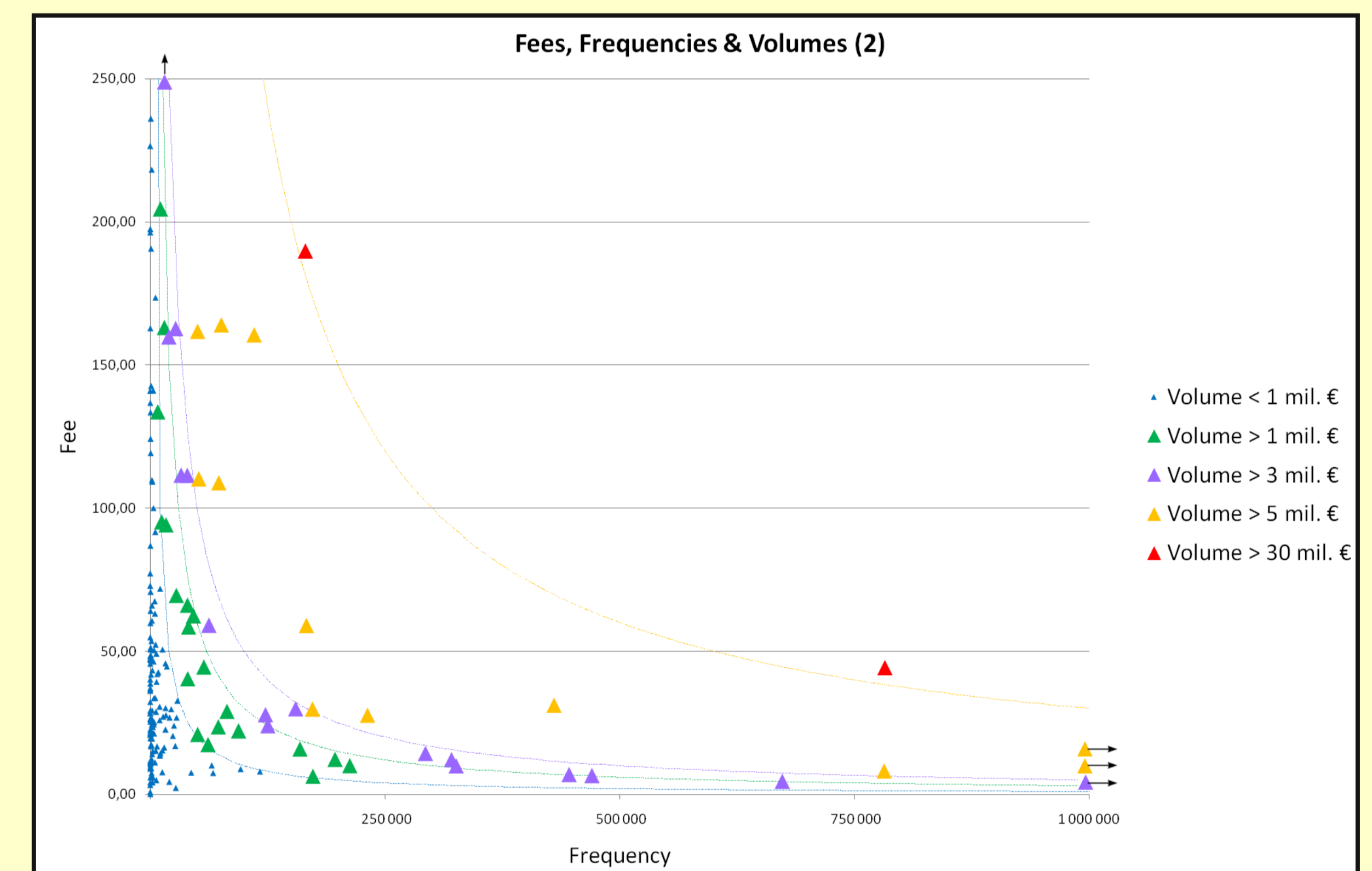


Figure 3: Fees, frequencies and volumes of the single meta-positions (2).

### EVALUATION 2:

Evaluation of differences between the sickness funds. Every sickness fund has an average fee for a single service of a Meta-fee position. Figure 4 shows the range of fees for radiological meta-positions with the biggest variation between the sickness funds.

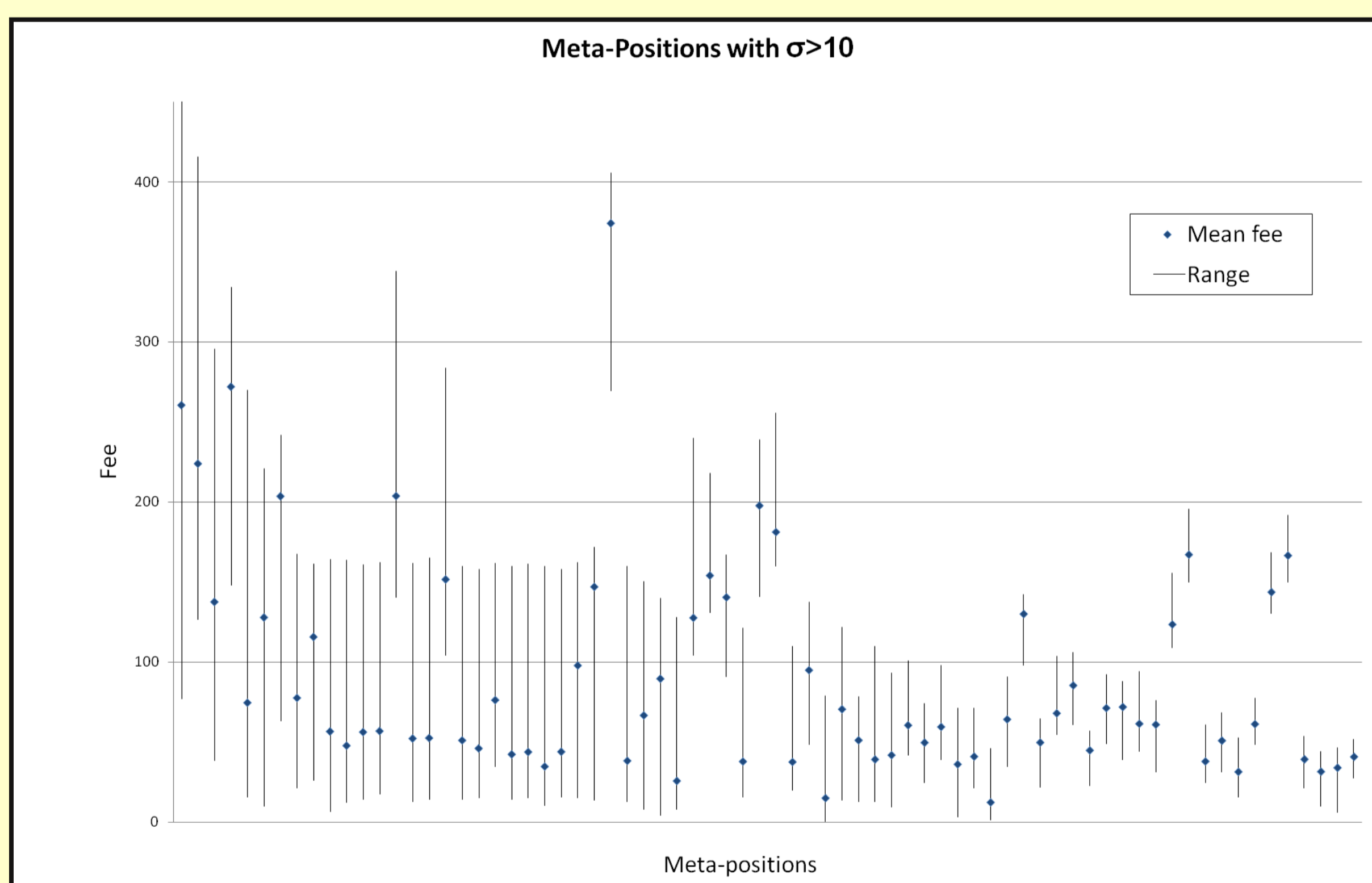


Figure 4: Differences of average fees for meta-positions between the sickness funds. The meta-positions are anonymized and sorted by standard error of the mean ( $\sigma$ ).

### EVALUATION 3:

Evaluation of differences between institutes and GPs/specialists. Figure 5 shows radiological meta-positions with the biggest differences of the average fee for single performances. The anonymized positions are ordered by the range between institutes and GPs/specialists.

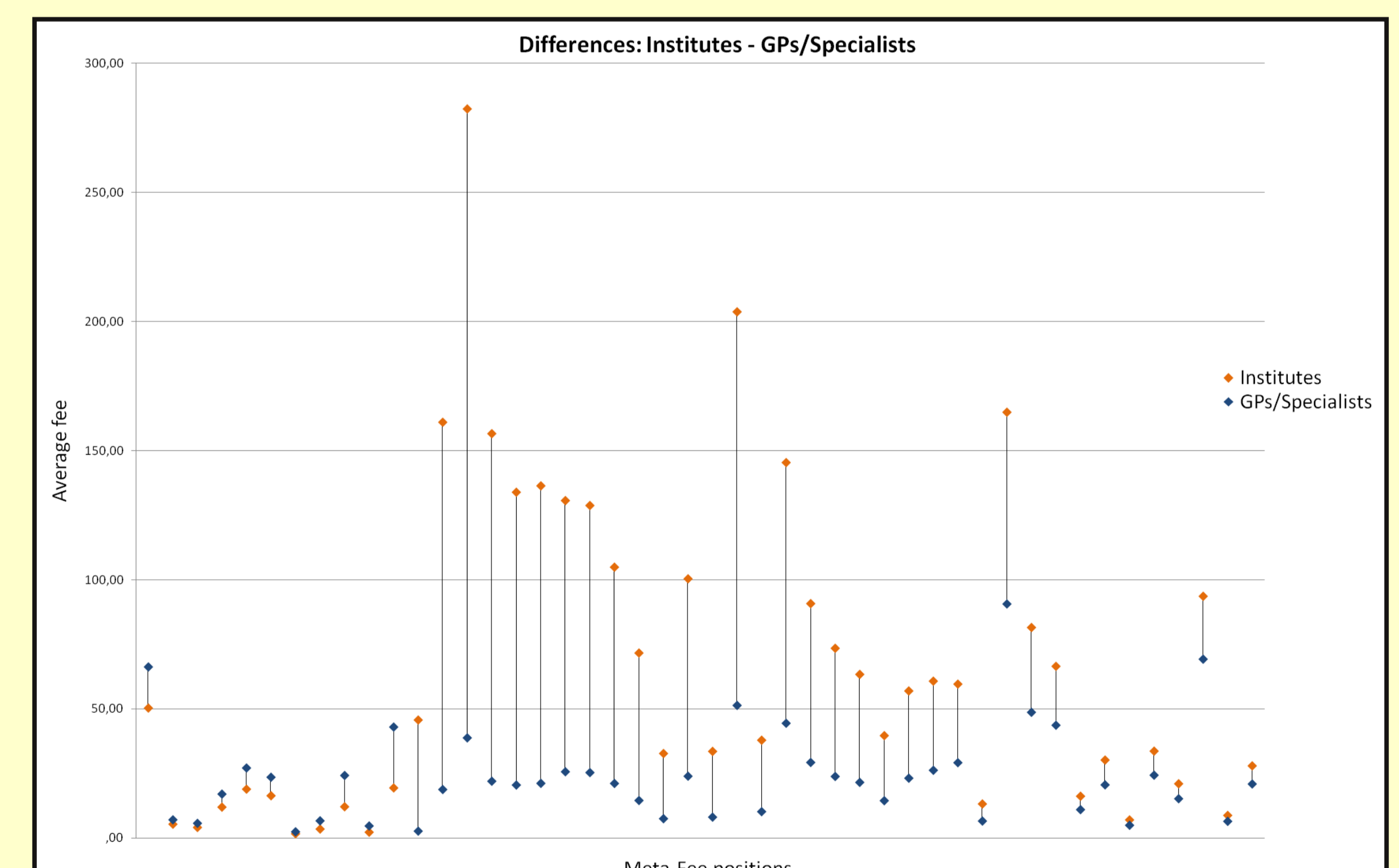


Figure 5: Differences of average fees for meta-positions between institutes and GPs/specialists. The meta-positions are anonymized and sorted by the difference.

## RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

Calculations show big differences of fees for alleged same services.

Technically this information is used to assure data quality and improve the matching on the Meta-Fee structure.

This type of analysis also provides information to the sickness funds where they can negotiate better prices or reallocate the service provision in the future.