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Healthcare reform enacted

Berlin. The Law on the Stabilization and Structural Reform of the Statutory Health Insurance was passed by the German Bundestag and Bundesrat in December 2011 and has been in effect since January 1st, 2012. A new trial instrument of the JFC for innovative medical technologies has been created under the catchword „innovative treatment methods“. Furthermore, the bill contains stricter rules on impermissible cooperation between healthcare providers and SHI physicians.

JFC: Josef Hecken to succeed Dr. Rainer Hess

Josef Hecken, the former president of the Federal Insurance Office will become the new impartial chairman of the Joint Federal Committee (JFC). The search for the successor turned out to be difficult since, according to the new legislation, the impartial chairman may not have been involved, for a minimum of one year prior to taking office, with any of the member organizations (hospital, physician and statutory health insurance associations).

Key points of long-term care insurance reform decided

Berlin. The federal cabinet has decided on the key points of the reform of the long-term care insurance. A private additional insurance with tax benefits is to be set up. Also, care for those suffering from dementia is to be improved.

People

Mario Czaja (CDU) is the new Senator of Health in Berlin. Czaja was healthcare spokesman of the CDU in the Berlin parliament.

Alfred Dänzer (63) is the new President of the German Hospital Federation DKG. Formerly, he was Vice President of the DKG and succeeded **Dr. Rudolf Kösters** as President.

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Breast implant scandal sparks CE discussion

Berlin. The scandal concerning faulty breast implants from the French company PIP has also instigated a heated discussion about market access regulations for medical devices. PIP sold thousands of breast implants worldwide which were filled with industrial grade instead of medical grade silicon. PIP admitted to having deceived the Technical Inspection (TÜV) Rhineland, which served as the company's official notified body for years in the monitoring of their implants. In response, sickness funds and physicians are demanding more rigorous

controls for medical devices.

Since 1995, the Medical Devices Act has imposed high legal requirements on the safety and effectiveness of medical devices in Germany, comparable to the requirements for drug product approval. Within the scope of CE marking, a special risk analysis and clinical assessment is carried out for every single medical device. According to BVMed, the PIP-incident was not a problem of market-admission but of market-monitoring.

More at www.medinsight.de.

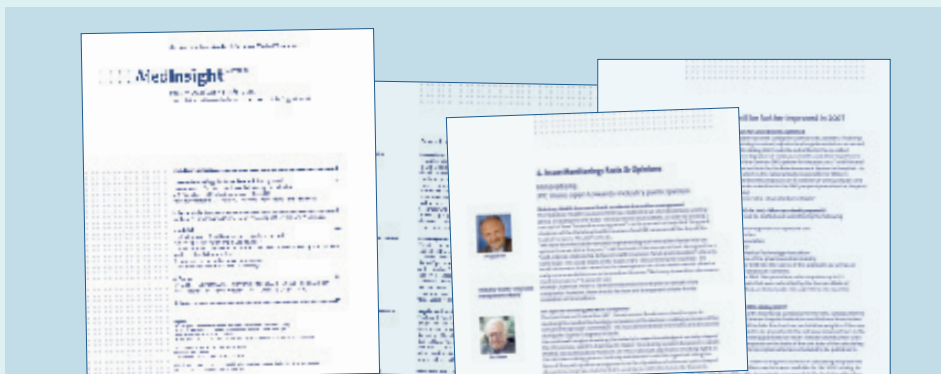
MedTech Radar: new medtech information service

Berlin. BVMed, Earlybird Venture Capital and High-Tech Gründerfonds launch „MedTech Radar“ – a joint media service about innovation transfer and financing in the medical technology sector in Germany. Illustrated with examples from the industry, the periodic media service will give an insight into the world of innovation in the medtech sector, analyze strengths and weaknesses, and provide background information.

The focus of the first issue is on innovation in the battle against heart attacks. More at: www.bvmed.de/publikationen/medtech-radar.

„The MedTech Radar is intended to provide a continual insight into new developments in the world of innovation in medicine technology“, says BVMed Director General and Board Member **Joachim M. Schmitt**. „We want to illustrate the important role innovation funding plays to the benefit of patients in Germany“, says **Dr. Michael Brandkamp**, Managing Director of High-Tech Gründerfonds, describing the aim of the service. „Using examples from the industry, we will show the complex journey of medical technologies - from the initial research to use by patients“, explains Earlybird Partner **Thom Rasche**.

MedInsight Germany: Latest News on Europe's Biggest Market!



MedInform has published a new issue of **MedInsight Germany**, a background report authored by the German medtech experts **Joachim M. Schmitt** and **Manfred Beeres** together with Advamed. **MedInsight** gives the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market.

Topics from the new issue are e. g.: Healthcare reform enacted; Breast implant scandal sparks CE discussion; JFC: Josef Hecken to succeed Dr. Rainer Hess; Reserves for statutory health insurance funds; MedTech Radar: new MedTech informa-

tion service; Key points of long-term care insurance reform decided; Healthcare sector to create 70,000 new jobs; Demographic development causes only slight raise in expenditure.

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