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Heart Report: Case Numbers in Cardiology Increasing

Berlin. "People are getting older and this goes along with increasing case numbers due to cardiac failure and heart valve diseases." This is the statement by the president of the German Cardiac Society, **Prof. Dr. Christian Hamm**, on the occasion of the presentation of the "Heart Report 2014". According to the experts, the report demonstrates that cardiology and modern medical technology have found the solutions to treat more and more older patients with heart diseases. This refers for instance to the transcatheter valve replacement procedure, TAVI.

Hospitals Warn of Significant Increase in Bureaucracy

Berlin. The new president of the German Hospital Federation (Deutsche Krankenhausgesellschaft, DKG), **Thomas Reumann**, has warned of more bureaucratic obstacles as a result of the government's quality initiative during his first public speech as the president of DKG at the federation's hospital reform event "Eckpunktepapier Krankenhausreform 2015" in Berlin, as reported by the medical publisher Bibliomed. "When we look at the key points of the hospital reform we notice that this will involve a significant increase in bureaucracy," Mr. Reumann said. In December 2014, Thomas Reumann succeeded Alfred Daenzer as DKG president.

JFC Decides Minimum Standards for TAVI and Mitral Clips

Berlin. In future, there will be quality-assuring minimum standards for minimally invasive heart valve interventions in place. Hospitals that carry out transcatheter aortic valve implantations, TAVI, or the mitral clip procedure for mitral valves will need to meet special structural, professional and staff requirements if they wish to have these services remunerated by the Statutory Health Insurance.

Prof. Dr. Juergen Windeler Remains IQWiG Director

Cologne. The director of the "Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care", IQWiG, will remain in office until 2021. The council and the board of the foundation have Prof. Windeler's contract.

E-Health Law Still Without Telecardiology

Berlin. The highly anticipated bill on the so-called "e-health law" (Statute for Secure Digital Communication and Applications in the Health Sector) was presented in mid-January 2015. Not only does the draft enact defined timelines for networking and electronic applications as well as incentives, but also sanctions if time frames are not met, which is a new legal approach. Until June 30, 2016, the telematics infrastructure for clinics, hospitals, and statutory health insurance funds must be completely available. For two years, physicians and hospitals will receive a fixed remuneration for electronic discharge letters as fast-start financing.

In a statement on the ministry draft for the e-health act, BVMed has advocated to include telecardiology into the bill. It involves the telemedical follow-up care of patients with pacemakers. Numerous studies have shown that telecardiology reduces mortality, improves patients' quality of life and helps to save costs. Therefore, BVMed suggests including specific rules on telecardiology into the amendment. Telecardiology services should be refinanced for a period of five years from the statute's taking effect, in addition to the morbidity-related overall remuneration. Read more on this subject at: MedInsight Germany, www.bvmed.de/medinsight.

New German Quality Institute IQTiG Established

Berlin. The newly established Institute for Quality Assurance and Transparency, IQTiG, in Berlin has started its work. The founding director is **Dr. Christof Veit**, previously chief executive of the Institute for Quality and Patient Safety, BQS, in Hamburg. The IQTiG quality institute works on behalf of the Federal Joint Committee, JFC, on measures for quality assurance and for indicating the quality of care in the healthcare sector. However, the institute can also independently

decide on initiatives within the framework of its statutory duties. "The new institute will preferably use social data to advance cross-sectoral quality assurance," explained the impartial JFC member, **Regina Klakow-Franck**, who is responsible for quality assurance. In this context, patient surveys are intended to play a greater role in future. "With the new institute, we want to reduce the documentation efforts."

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



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

Topics of the new issue are e.g.: Heart Report: Case Numbers in Cardiology Increasing; Endoprostheses Register Well Under Way; Documentation: Comparison of Market Authorization Systems of Medical De-

vices in the US and Europe; JFC Decides Minimum Standards for TAVI and Mitral Clips; Diagnostics Industry Association: Market in Decline; Strengthening Discharge Management; Hospitals Warn of Significant Increase in Bureaucracy.

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