

# BVMedReport № 04/18

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## Germans Appreciate Healthcare System

Berlin. Medical care in Germany enjoys a high reputation among the public, a survey conducted by research institute Forsa among 1,000 SHI insured on behalf of the Association of the Substitute Statutory Health Insurance Funds, Verband der Ersatzkassen (vdek), found: 85 percent of the public are very satisfied (30 percent) or satisfied (55 percent) with medical care. A large majority of those surveyed value the service principles of the Statutory Health Insurance (SHI) such as free family member insurance, the principle of benefits in kind, or the solidarity-based contribution payments.

## Financial Reserves of the SHI Funds Rise to Over 19 Billion Euros

Berlin. The Statutory Health Insurance funds generated a surplus of around 3.15 billion euros during 2017 (1.62 billion euros in 2016). The financial reserves of the health insurance funds thus increased to around 19.2 billion euros by the end of 2017. The record reserves provide a good basis for the SHI funds, said the outgoing Minister of Health **Hermann Gröhe** (CDU). This showed that the decision to support the insured with the necessary improvements e.g. with regard to prevention, hospice and palliative care, or by strengthening nursing care and hygiene in hospitals while at the same time lowering the average additional contribution rate for 2018 was right.

## Online Remote Treatment: Making Better Use of Digitization

Berlin. BVMed calls for the intelligent use of new technologies in medical care. By relaxing the ban on remote treatment, which is being discussed among German physicians, for instance, better use could be made of the opportunities offered by digitization. More: [www.medinsight.de](http://www.medinsight.de).

## MedInsight Germany: April 2018 Issue Is Out

Berlin. Get the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market: MedInsight Germany is a background report by BVMed and AdvaMed. Order a free trial copy: [insight@medinform.de](mailto:insight@medinform.de). More: [www.medinsight.de](http://www.medinsight.de).

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## New Government: Spahn Defines First Focus Areas

Berlin. **Angela Merkel** was elected for her fourth term of office as German Chancellor in March 2018. The new Federal Minister of Health is **Jens Spahn**, previously undersecretary with the Finance Ministry, who has extensive experience in healthcare policy. The new Federal Minister of Education and Research is **Anja Karliczek**, CDU, who is largely unknown to the public. The new Minister of Economic Affairs is **Peter Altmeier**, CDU, who previously headed the Chancellery. The coalition agreement between CDU/CSU and SPD provides for the continuation of the "Medical Technology Strategy Process". The medtech industry is optimistic for this process, especially since the relevant ministries of research, econ-

omy, and health are all headed by the more business-friendly CDU.

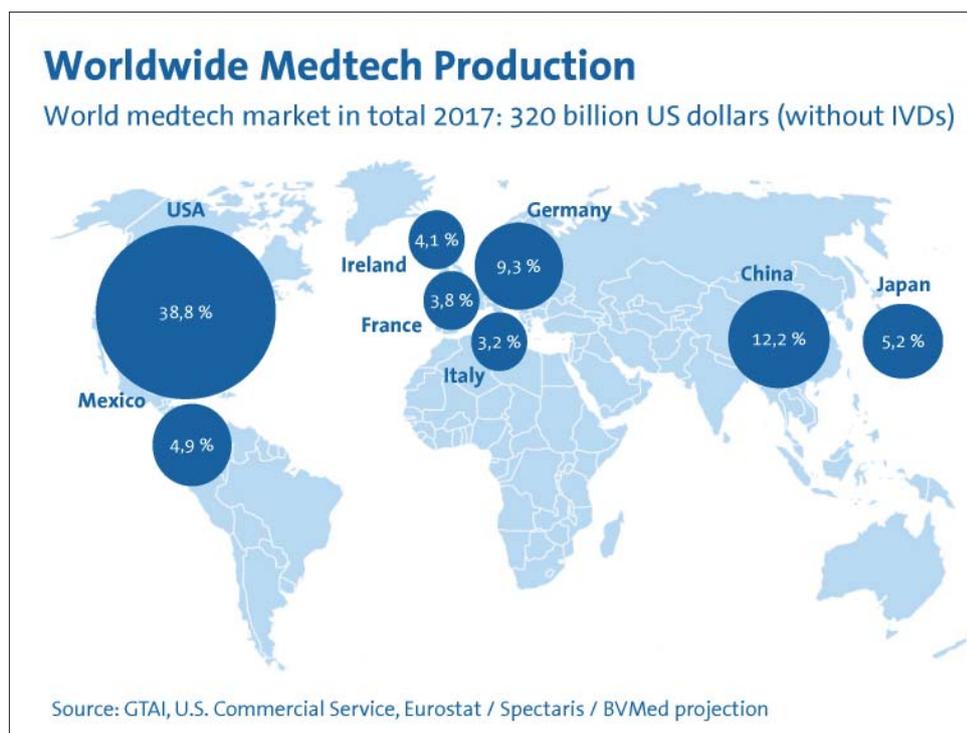
The new Federal Minister of Health already mentioned some of the topics he intends to focus on. According to Spahn, the question of "How quickly will I get an appointment with a specialist?" was a huge issue. In terms of nursing care Spahn plans a large-scale approach and better pay. The third focus area Spahn wants to develop is digitization. Among others, Spahn said he intended to invite start-ups to pay a visit to the ministry once every three months so that he will be able to learn what is going on in this area. Read more at [www.medinsight.de](http://www.medinsight.de).

## MDR: Bottlenecks at Notified Bodies Feared

Berlin. New requirements brought by the EU Medical Device Regulation, MDR, fewer Notified Bodies, loss of the British Notified Bodies due to Brexit – the bottleneck at the institutions for the certification of medical devices is foreseeable and has already begun. Not only for the manufacturers can it become dangerous, but also for patient care, experts at the BVMed conference on the implementation of the MDR said. "The reduced number of Notified Bodies is already overburdening the system," **Merlin Rietschel** of MedTech Europe observed. The MDR now means further

responsibilities for the Notified Bodies, such as more controls especially in the clinical field, the yearly monitoring audits, unannounced audits, sample taking, as well as the rotation of auditors. Therefore, the Notified Bodies would have to expand their resources.

The MDR came directly into force on May 25, 2017, without being implemented into national law. What follows is a three-year transitional period during which the manufacturers can choose to use the old or already the new medical devices law. More at: [www.medinsight.de](http://www.medinsight.de).



Germany is the third biggest market for medical technologies in the world regarding production. Number one are the United States. The second biggest medtech production market is China.