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Health economy shows increased growth

Berlin. During the last ten years, the German health economy grew at 4.1 percent each year – at a higher rate than the national economy as a whole. The health sector employs 7.6 million people, generating roughly € 370 billion, which means its share in the gross national product is 12.1 percent. 8.4 percent of German exports (€ 131.1 billion) are health-related. With a gross value added of € 15.5 billion, the medtech sector has an 18.4 percent share in the industrial health economy, generating roughly one in every five euros.

Joint replacement: Doctors lament declining quality

Berlin. The German Society for Orthopedics and Trauma and the German Society of Endoprosthetics are concerned about potential declining quality in the supply of hip and knee joint replacements due to the growing influence of financial considerations. There were now a number of hospitals where physicians were only involved in the selection of implants prior to switching manufacturers. This could lead to an increase in the number of complications and re-operations. Thus, experts recommend a strategy to rule out changes for mere financial reasons.

Jens Spahn to reorganize Medical Review Board

Berlin. Federal Health Minister **Jens Spahn** wants to completely restructure the Health Insurance Medical Service (MDK). In the future, the institution is to become an independent statutory body under public law. The draft law introduces significant changes with regard to the services, the correct billing of hospital services as well as their more efficient and transparent verification.

Jens Spahn appoints Steffen as new State Secretary

Berlin. The former State Secretary for Finance **Thomas Steffen** was appointed to the top position of the Ministry of Health. Lawyer **Mr. Steffen** thus succeeds **Lutz Stroppe**, who was transferred into temporary retirement.

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MDR: “The EU Commission must act now”

Berlin. The German Medtech Association BVMed has called upon the European Commission to act during the current legislative period with regard to the new EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and to take the appropriate steps in order to prevent bottlenecks in patient care. “One year before the application date of the MDR on May 26, 2020, the prerequisites for implementing the MDR are still not available to the medtech companies. These include a sufficient number of Notified Bodies, the necessary legal certainty in the form of delegated and implementing acts as well as a functioning Eudamed database,” said BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll**. One year before the application date on May 26, 2020, the new regulatory system is not functioning. Only one of the existing 57 Notified Bodies has so far

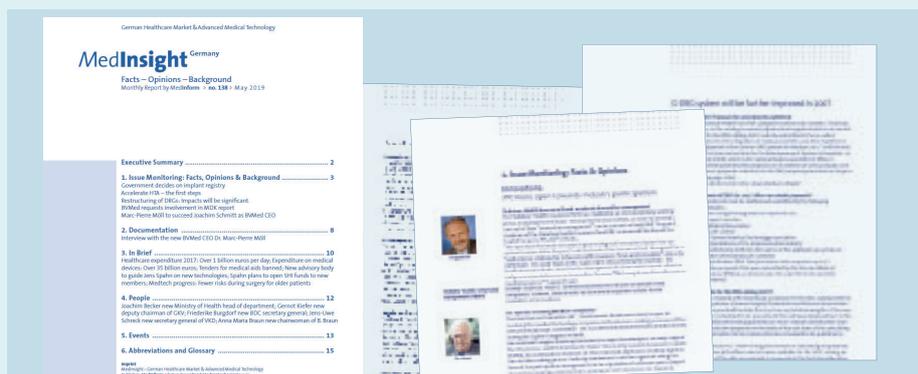
been re-notified based on the MDR. The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs expects only 12 Notified Bodies to be notified by the end of 2019, i.e. five months before the deadline ends. The medtech companies expect greater transparency about the state of the implementation measures from the European Commission so that they can improve their planning. The medtech industry continues to support the goals of the MDR, i.e. greater patient safety and improved access to medical-technological innovations. The companies are well prepared. In contrast, the regulatory system is not. Read more at www.medinsight.de.

Dr. Christina Zimmer joins BVMed as MDR expert

Berlin. **Dr. Christina Zimmer** joined the office of the German Medtech Association BVMed in Berlin, where she will be department head for the Medical Device Regulation (MDR). The 38-year-old chemist and pharmacist holds a doctorate in medical sciences and during the past six years worked in medical device monitoring in Liechtenstein. After training as a pharmacist in Austria, **Dr. Christina Zimmer** started her career as a chemical development

engineer in an international company. In 2012, she transferred to the Liechtenstein National Administration. Within the Office for Health, she was tasked with regulatory and enforcement duties in the areas of medical devices, in-vitro diagnostics, and radiation protection. “We want to support especially our small and medium-sized businesses in fulfilling the greater requirements resulting from the MDR,” said BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll**.

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 **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll** 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.: Health economy shows increased growth; Documentation: German medtech market report 2019; Germany to introduce tax-based research funding; **MP Kühne**: “More transparency during negotiations with

health insurance funds”; Cardiologists want to establish TAVI as treatment standard even for low-risk cases; Joint replacements: Patients tell their moving stories.

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