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Josef Hecken: Pay for Performance Does Not Work

Berlin. In order to implement cross-sectoral quality assurance, we need "reasonable and legally watertight criteria" to gauge the quality of results. "This is one of the major tasks of the new quality institute," said Professor **Josef Hecken**, chairman of the Federal Joint Committee, G-BA, at the Bavarian Health Forum in Munich. Nonetheless, the chairman also warned against too much euphoria. There was no system in the world where pay for performance works according to clear-cut quality criteria.

Treatment Errors: Medical Devices Account for 0.5 Percent

Berlin. In 2014, medical devices accounted for only 0.5 percent of confirmed medical treatment errors, the annual statistical data 2014 show. They are based on the assessment of treatment errors by the Medical Review Board of the Statutory Health Insurance Funds (Medizinischer Dienst der Krankenkassen, MDK). In total, MDK investigated 14,663 reported cases. Around a quarter of the expert opinions found treatment errors. Of 3,796 mistakes found, 18 were caused by medical devices. Almost two thirds of the accusations made with regard to treatment errors concerned treatments in hospitals. One third concerned accusations made against a practice-based physician. The majority of accusations regarding treatment errors concerned surgical procedures. 7,845 cases are directly connected with surgical procedures. In around 24 percent of cases, the expert opinions found a treatment error during operations.

Jens Spahn to Become Secretary of State for Finance

Berlin. Healthcare politician **Jens Spahn**, aged 35, who is the health policy spokesman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and a member of the CDU executive committee, will become the new parliamentary state secretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance under Minister **Wolfgang Schauble**. Spahn will likely be succeeded by CDU politician **Maria Michalk** from Saxony.

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VSG: Medtech Benefit Assessment Adopted

Berlin. The German Federal Parliament adopted the Act to Strengthen Care Provision in the Statutory Health Insurance system, GKV-VSG, in mid-June 2015. It will come into effect on August 1, introducing numerous new provisions both for the outpatient and for the inpatient sector. For example, patients will be entitled to obtain a second opinion and hospitals will become more involved in the provision of outpatient care if the outpatient sector is unable to arrange appointments with specialists. In addition, a 300-million-euro innovation fund will be introduced to improve cross-sectoral care. The discharge management will also undergo a reform. The most important aspect for medtech compa-

nies is the planned regulation on benefit assessment procedures for new methods and medical technologies. In this context, the plan of the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Healthcare, IQWiG, to involve the Federal Joint Committee in all new device-class IIb and III methods and in the conduct of benefit assessment procedures has failed. Compared to the draft, the act provides improvements: Innovation steps are not intended to be subject to the procedure. Only procedures based on a "new theoretical scientific concept" will be concerned. Only "particularly invasive" methods are intended to be included. This will be further specified in an ordinance. More at: www.medinsight.de

IQTIG: The Goals of the New Quality Institute

Berlin. "The quality of care for patients will be improved if the quality assurance measures benefit those who care for patients," said **Dr. Christof Veit**, general manager of the new Institute for Quality Assurance and Transparency in the Healthcare System, IQTIG, with regard to the institute's goal, when speaking at a health policy event hosted by BVMed in mid-June in Berlin. The meeting dealt with the quality, transparency and

the benefits of medical-technological procedures. At the event, Dr. Veit argued very much with a focus on the patients, as did the health economist **Prof. Dr. Axel Muehlbacher**: "Quality is the aspect of care that the patient experiences." With regard to potential dangers and the protection of patients, what matters to Dr. Veit is the "well-founded implementation of thresholds." More at: www.medinsight.de

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** in cooperation with Advamed. **MedInsight** gives the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market.

Topics of the new issue are e. g.: Medtech Benefit Assessment Adopted; The Goals of the New Quality Institute; Josef Hecken: Pay for Performance Does Not Work; Documentation: German G7 Presidency: Health

as a Major Focus; Treatment Errors: Medical Devices Account for 0.5 Percent; Government Passes Hospital Reform Law; Hospitals: Trend Reversal in Volume Growth; Government Passed eHealth Law; Breaking the Taboo of Incontinence Care.

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