

BVMedReport № 07-08/18

July/August 2018
Circulation: 2,400

Jens Spahn strives for a “leading role” in digitization

Berlin. Policy-makers should underline their claim to playing their part more clearly, set even higher standards, and achieve tangible improvements for citizens. These ambitious healthcare policy goals were formulated by Federal Minister of Health **Jens Spahn** for his area of responsibility on the occasion of the opening of the “Hauptstadtkongress” Conference in June in Berlin. Germany should again play a leading role when it comes to the digitization of healthcare. Furthermore, noticeable improvements in nursing care were expected to be implemented within the next twelve months, announced Spahn.

Reform of the German DRG system

Berlin. Early in June 2018, Health Minister **Jens Spahn** announced his plans for a modification of the German healthcare system. Starting from 2020, hospital reimbursement will switch to a combination of DRGs and nursing staff cost reimbursement. His “immediate program to improve nursing care” also obliges the insurance funds to completely re-finance any increase in agreed wages for nursing staff already as of 2018. The medtech industry fears that under these future DRG conditions, costs of materials will be affected negatively, meaning the reimbursement of innovative medical technologies in the in-patient sector will suffer.

Spahn’s first law passed by Cabinet

Berlin. In future, the financial reserves of the Statutory Health Insurance funds may not exceed the amount of one month’s expenditure, according to the draft of the “GKV-Versichertenentlastungsgesetz,” a law intended to ease the financial burden on those insured with the Statutory Health Insurance.

SHI heads confirmed in office

Berlin. The administrative board of the National Association of the Statutory Health Insurance Funds has confirmed board members Doris Pfeiffer and Genot Kiefer for another six years.

Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/bvmed

“Digital Medicine” as a specific healthcare area

Berlin. On the occasion of the health IT fair “conhit” in Berlin, BVMed has advocated new access paths for digital and telemedicine applications and proposed the creation of a new “digital medicine” healthcare area. “This requires special evaluations geared to the specific aspects of digital health,” said BVMed CEO **Joachim M. Schmitt**. Previous experience, for example with telemonitoring in the field of cardiology, would show that the current tools were not suitable for this area and the processes not adequate. Due to the cross-sectoral relevance of digital applications, BVMed proposes to establish a new

digital medicine healthcare area with specific remuneration, independent of the existing healthcare sectors. Digital medicine could, for example, be financed by the health fund and allocations from the risk-sharing scheme with a contribution of 1 billion euros per year for the testing of new digital applications and instruments. “This would give Germany a pioneer role in the age of digital health. The announcement of such a reimbursement scheme could stimulate and promote progress in the healthcare sector in Germany,” said BVMed.

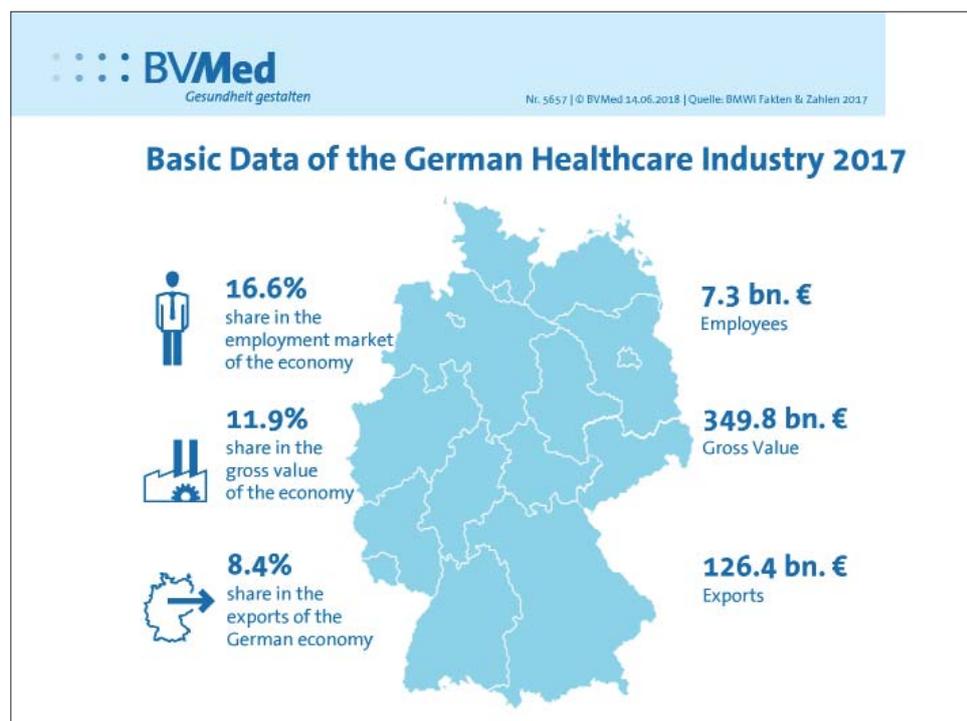
Read more at www.medinsight.de.

One year EU MDR: Many problems unresolved

Berlin. The German industry associations fear a significant bottleneck in the Notified Bodies designation process and in the implementation of the EU Medical Device Regulation with negative effects on the industry and the healthcare market. On May 25, 2017, the new EU Medical Device Regulation came into force. But even after twelve months, many questions about the practical implementation are still open. The industry associations organized in the “Working Group Medical Device Law of the Industrial Associations” (AG MPG) make this urgently worthy of attention. Manufacturers, Notified bodies, and other actors in the healthcare sector are undergoing many

changes as a result of the new regulation. Many processes in companies must be adapted to the new requirements, at the same time numerous legal aspects still need to be clarified. The associations also fear an enormous bottleneck at the Notified Bodies.

Currently there are only 59 Notified Bodies for medical devices in the EU – from originally 90. This means that there are already capacity problems for the Notified Bodies. Manufacturers therefore have to put up with long waiting times before they can obtain the necessary certifications to place their products on the market. w More at www.medinsight.de.



The healthcare industry is an important sector of the German economy, providing 7.3 million jobs, 350 billion euros gross value and 126 billion exports.