

# BVMedReport № 07-08/19

July/August 2019  
Circulation: 2.600

## Josef Hecken wants to compromise on medtech HTA

Berlin. **Josef Hecken**, the impartial chairman of the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA), indicated that a compromise may have been found in the discussion regarding the acceleration of new methods' assessments of health technologies. In a speech held at Hauptstadtkongress Medizin & Gesundheit at the end of May 2019, he announced a multi-tiered assessment procedure. The discussion about accelerated HTA processes for medical technologies is gaining momentum, and the Health Minister and even the G-BA chairman are becoming allies of medtech interests. More at: [www.medinsight.de](http://www.medinsight.de).

## Medtech Start-up Pitch: "It's about networking"

Berlin. "The collaboration between start-ups and established medical technology companies offers great potential. This applies in particular to new digital and telemedical care services," said BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll** at the opening of the Medtech Radar Start-up Pitch Day on 5 June, 2019, in Berlin with 150 participants. Yet, the framework conditions still need to be tailored more to the specific aspects of this sector in order to allow successful market launches.

## BVMed demands renewal of national Medtech Strategy Process

BVMed has called on the present government to re-ignite the national Medtech Strategy Process envisioned in the coalition agreement. "The German medical technology industry, which is characterized by medium-sized businesses, faces huge challenges from the European Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and digitization. We need interdepartmental and interparty cooperation to get the strategy process back on track," said BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll**.

## Loop recorder: "Entitlement to supply despite system failure"

Berlin. Patients insured through the SHI are entitled to be supplied with an implantable loop recorder, the legal expert **Dr. Ulrich Reese** writes in the journal "KU Gesundheitsmanagement." The technology is reimbursed for hospital treatments, but not yet in ambulatory care.

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## New law: Fast track for digital medical devices

Berlin. Federal Minister of Health **Jens Spahn** (CDU) intends to accelerate the digital transformation process of the German healthcare system with the help of the new Digital Care Law (DVG). What is especially important for the medtech industry is the fact that in future the insured patients will be entitled to receive care through medical devices of the lower classes I and IIa that are based on digital technologies, e.g. health apps. To this end, the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) will develop a catalog of digital health applications to be reimbursed by the health insurance funds. In order to guarantee the speedy transfer of new devices into medical care, the BfArM institute will decide on manufacturers' applications within a period of three months. Minister Spahn plans to implement

the electronic patient file by 2021.

The medtech companies support Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn's goal of accelerating the access of patients to digital care services through the DVG law. "The initial steps of the DVG are positive. But further steps must follow in order to promote digital solutions also in connection with conventional medical devices such as implants," BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll** commented.

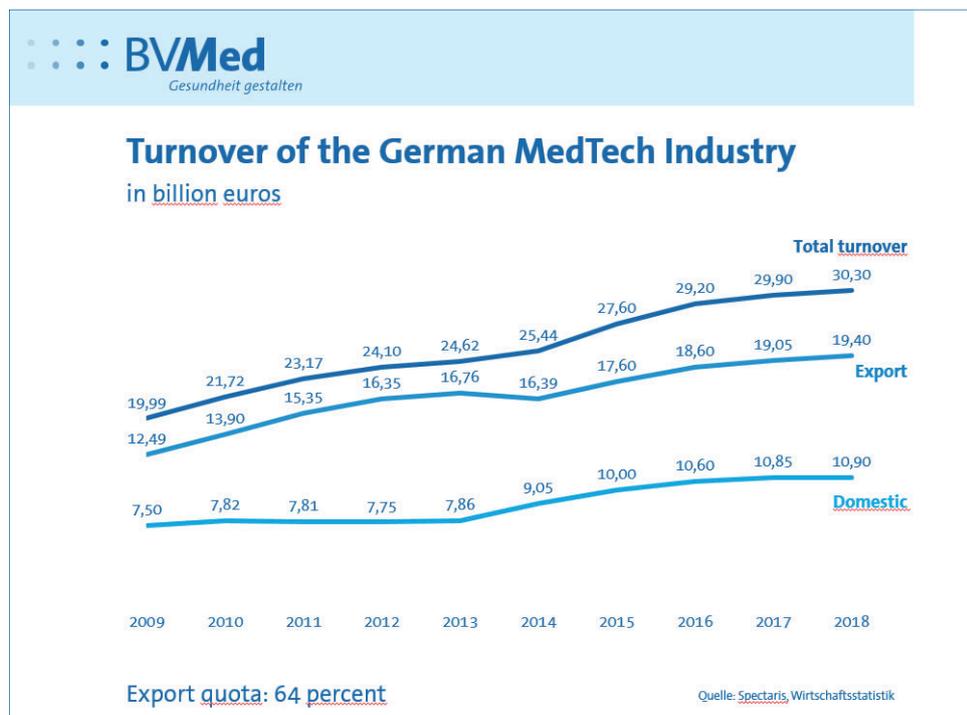
A positive factor is the low-threshold and therefore patient-friendly approach of providing digital solutions such as apps as a service financed by the SHI funds. The fact that the register of digital health applications will be managed centrally is considered a positive factor as well.

Read more at [www.medinsight.de](http://www.medinsight.de).

## Natalie Gladkov heads new digital department

Berlin. **Natalie Gladkov** (31) joined BVMed in Berlin on June 1, 2019, as head of the digital health department. From November 2015 to May 2019, Natalie Gladkov worked as press and public relations officer for the Federal Association of Healthcare IT Providers, Bundesverband Gesundheits-IT – bvitg, and in this position contributed among other things to the health IT industry fair DMEA.

"The digital transformation of the healthcare system and the opportunities created by the digitization of patient care will be one of the key issues for BVMed during the coming years. Therefore, we are establishing a dedicated digital health department within BVMed in order to improve the services offered to our members, but also to address more technology companies," said BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll**.



Germany is the third biggest market for medical technologies in the world. The total revenue of the manufacturing medical technology companies (considered are those with more than 20 employees) in Germany is 32 billion euros. The export rate is at

around 64 percent. The German medtech market is about twice as large as the French and three times as large as the British or Italian market.

More at: [www.bvmed.de/branchenbericht](http://www.bvmed.de/branchenbericht).