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Number of Patients Treated in Hospitals Is Further Rising

Wiesbaden. 19.1 million patients were treated in German hospitals in 2014. Thus, the number of patients treated rose by 1.9 percent, compared to 2013. The medium period to stay in hospital lowered to 7.4 days. The 1,980 German hospitals provided more than 500,700 beds for in-patient care.

Healthcare Expenditure per Person Up 1.7 Percent

Wiesbaden. The per capita expenditure on healthcare in Germany rose by 1.7 percent in 2013, the OECD reports. 11 percent of the German gross domestic product – without investments – were used for the healthcare sector in 2013.

New Medtech Aids: G-BA Review Needed First

Kassel. With regard to the debate about innovative medical technical aids, the Federal Social Court has strengthened the competences of the Federal Joint Committee, G-BA. If there is a new method behind the medical technical aid, the health insurance funds will no longer be allowed to pay for it without a G-BA judgement. Manufacturers may not apply for a review by G-BA. This causes problems and high obstacles especially for companies that care for smaller groups of patients who do not have their own patient representative at the G-BA.

Innovation Fund Going to Start Soon

Berlin. The new "innovation fund" raises high expectations. Scheduled to receive 300 million euros per year by the health insurers, the innovation fund is intended to finance novel healthcare projects that may later be integrated into standard care. Nonetheless, telemedicine, specialist care in homes, or patient discharge management should receive stronger emphasis.

People

Bremen. **Eva Quante-Brandt**, SPD, is the new senator for health in the state of Bremen. She succeeds **Hermann Schulte-Sasse**, who is leaving office for reasons of age.

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MDR: EU Ministers Also Oppose a System Change

Brussels. The EU Council of Ministers composed of the 28 European health ministers has agreed on a general approach for a Medical Device Regulation, MDR, just before the 2015 summer break, clearing the way for negotiations with the EU Parliament and the European Commission ("trilogue") on the final set of regulations. It is now certain that there will be no centralized approval procedure for high-risk medical devices as demanded by some policy-makers and also statutory health insurances in Germany after the PIP scandal. A regulation similar to the approval process for pharmaceutical products was not supported by a majority, neither in the EU Commission nor in the Parliament or Council of Ministers. Instead, the existing system of monitoring and

audits shall be maintained.

Germany was the only EU country in the Council of Ministers that disagreed with the general approach. The German ministry of health still sees a "necessity for improvements". Germany criticizes, among others, the additional bureaucratic effort for the planned scrutiny mechanism. Furthermore, the ministry misses a transitional arrangement as well as a provision to safeguard existing standards to avoid supply bottlenecks. BVMed rejects an EU involvement in the certification process for medical devices as intended by the scrutiny mechanism. Many weak spots in the approval system had already been eliminated, explained BVMed CEO **Joachim M. Schmitt**. More at: www.medinsight.de

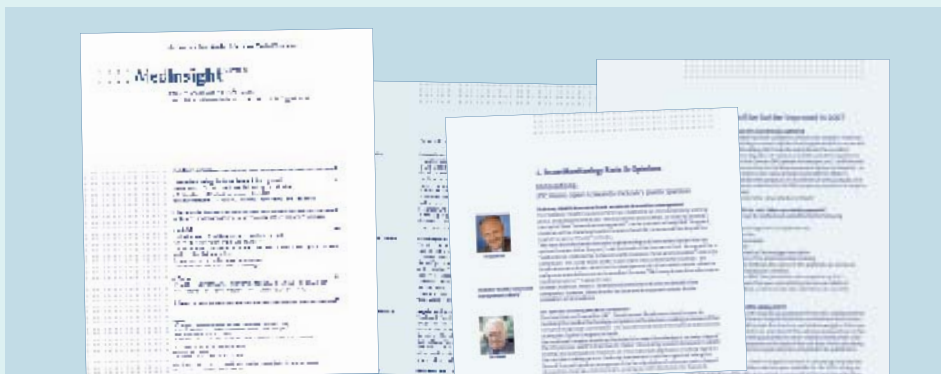
Hospital Reform: More Funds for the Hospitals

Berlin. The government fractions of CDU/CSU and SPD parties want to improve the draft Hospital Structures Act (Krankenhaus-Strukturgesetz, KHSG) submitted by federal health minister **Hermann Groehe**, CDU. Among others, hospitals shall be allocated more funds in the next years than provided for to date. This was underlined by the deputy chairman of the CDU/CSU parlia-

mentary group, **Georg Nuesslein**, in the debate on the first reading of the Hospital Structures Act in the German Bundestag. The SPD parliamentary group's spokesperson for hospital policy, **Marina Kermer**, said her party would support a doubling of the 660 million euros nursing care program to 1.2 billion euros.

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.: MDR: EU Ministers Also Oppose a System Change; Hospital Reform: More Funds for the Hospitals; New Medtech Aids: G-BA Review Needed First; Innovation Fund Pro-

jects; Number of Patients Treated in Hospitals Is Further Rising; Healthcare Expenditure per Person Up 1.7 Percent; 14 Billion Euros of Tax Funds for the SHI; Ministers of Health Call for Greater Efforts in Telematics.

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