

BVMedReport № 10/17

October 2017
Circulation: 2,200

Federal Elections: Coalition Agreement Matters for MedTech

Berlin. The federal elections on September 24, 2017, resulted in tremendous drops for the ruling parties CDU/CSU and SPD. **Angela Merkel** will be able to continue her chancellorship, but the smaller Liberal (FDP) and Green Parties are required to govern the country. At present, it is hard to say what this will mean for the medtech industry. The coalition agreement, which will now have to be negotiated, is of particular importance. More at: www.medinsight.de.

Digital Devices Should Enter the Market More Quickly

Hamburg. The approval pathways for innovative digital healthcare products are often unclear and overly complicated, the German statutory health insurance Techniker Krankenkasse, TK, complains. It wants innovative digital devices to enter the market at a faster pace. "The regulatory procedures are highly complex and involve the risk of thwarting innovations at an early stage," explained TK deputy chair **Thomas Ballast**. TK therefore proposes to set up an "innovation budget." The statutory health insurance funds should invest at least € 2.50 per insured person in new forms of healthcare, TK requests in a new position paper.

Outpatient Sector Gaining Importance

Berlin. A growing number of patients in Germany is treated in doctors' offices. This is the result of an analysis conducted by the Central Research Institute of Ambulatory Health Care. According to the study, 20 percent of all hospitalizations could be avoided. Among the services that are increasingly being provided on an outpatient basis or are particularly suitable for avoiding hospitalization, the study lists dialysis treatments, colonoscopy procedures, geriatric services, as well as skin and ophthalmology procedures.

19.5 Million Hospital Patients in 2016

Wiesbaden. In 2016, 19.5 million patients were treated in hospitals in Germany. This is 1.4 percent more than in the previous year. The average stay in hospital lasted 7.3 days.

Digital Technology as a Part of Healthcare Processes

Berlin. Digitized medicine must be an integrated part of meaningful processes in healthcare. That was the upshot of a BVMed conference. The technology is not an end in itself, but rather a tool. The goal must be to promptly improve the healthcare quality of patients by a meaningful use of e-health and digital solutions. Then technology will become a part of existing or new healthcare processes.

According to **Nino Mangiapane**, head of fundamental telematics and e-health issues unit in the Federal Ministry of Health, "we shall continue to focus on aspects of healthcare quality during digitization." The challenge for manufacturers of medical devices is not only to develop products in the future, but to also offer complete

solutions for healthcare processes, said **Thom Rasche** of Earlybird. The business model lies in the "services" that are added to the product.

The driving force behind digital medicine must be concise shortfalls and the medical demand, claimed **Benjamin Westerhoff**, head of healthcare programs at the Barmer health insurance fund. Digitalized medicine must be an "integrative element of functioning healthcare processes." Technology, for instance, can help put a physician's decision on a broader basis. The health insurance funds demand evidence-based solutions and information privacy. It is very important that medical progress will be measured against outcomes like functionality and quality of life.

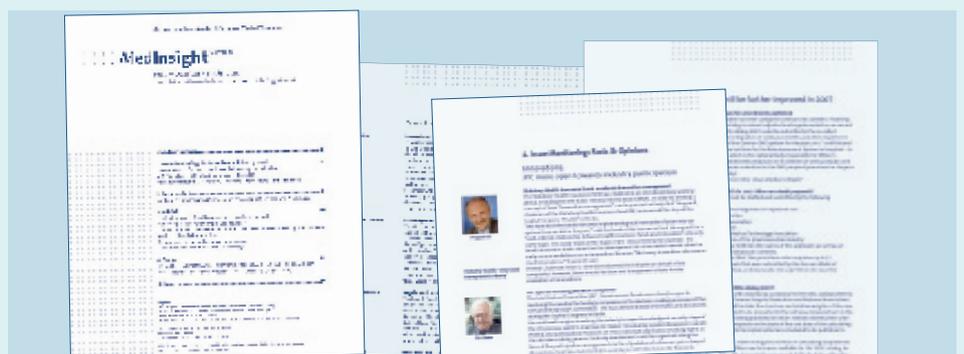
Read more at www.medinsight.de.

Lelgemann and Pott New Impartial G-BA Heads

Berlin. The host organizations of the Joint Federal Committee, G-BA, have agreed on the new proposals for the future top positions of the committee in addition to chairman **Prof. Dr. Josef Hecken**. The proposed impartial candidates are two physicians. During a public ballot, the administrative board of the Federal Association of the Statutory Health Insurance Funds, GKV-Spitzenverband, decided unanimously to nominate

Monika Lelgemann as the successor of the impartial member **Harald Deisler**, who will retire. Ms. Lelgemann, aged 58, is an anesthetist and a clinical epidemiologist and was acting head of the Health Authority in Bremen for two years until the end of 2016. The service providers in the G-BA committee have nominated **Elisabeth Pott**, aged 68, the former president of the Federal Center for Health Education.

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.: Federal Elections: Coalition Agreement Matters; Digital Technology as a Part of Healthcare Processes; Digital Devices Should Enter the Market More Quickly; Outpatient Sector

Gaining Importance; 19.5 Million Hospital Patients in 2016; Hospitals Treat 1.67 Million Heart Patients Each Year; Further Surplus Billions for Health Insurance Funds; Lelgemann and Pott to Become New Impartial G-BA Heads.

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