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BVMed establishes sectoral interest group Robotics

Berlin. BVMed has set up a new sectoral interest group for the providers of robotics systems in medical care. The new BVMed sectoral interest group "Robotics in Medical Care" works to improve patient care through the establishment of robotics systems in regular medical care. One of the aims of the sectoral interest group is to initiate the appropriate financing of robotics systems through targeted funding programs. Moreover, the BVMed experts plan to provide better information about the advantages of robotics in medical care for professionals as well as patients. The contact person in the BVMed office is **Natalie Gladkov** who heads the digital health department: gladkov@bvmed.de.

Half-time upshot for German coalition government mostly positive

Berlin. BVMed sees the health policy achievements of the grand coalition between CDU/CSU and SPD as largely positive. "Many important steps were made, in particular coming from the Ministry of Health, headed by **Jens Spahn**. But there are still many aspects on the to-do list that now need to be addressed courageously," said **Dr. Meinrad Lugan**. One initiative of the coalition agreement has not yet started: the intended continuation of the national medtech strategy process. BVMed particularly misses a better alignment of research, economic, and health policies.

G-BA to review "high-risk healthcare apps"

Berlin. The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) claims competency for the benefit assessment procedure of high-risk digital devices. At an expert forum on digitization in October 2019, impartial G-BA chairman, **Professor Josef Hecken**, said that "things get interesting when we are dealing with medical devices."

Ruth Hecker new chairwoman of Patient Safety Action Alliance

Berlin. **Ruth Hecker** is the new chairwoman of the Patient Safety Action Alliance "Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit (APS)." She is the chief patient safety officer of the Essen University Hospital.

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Implant Registry passed by German Bundestag

Berlin. The German Bundestag passed the Law on the Establishment of an Implant Registry in Germany (EDIR). In addition to the new implant registry, the law also provides regulations that will fast-track the new methods' assessment process. The law is not subject to approval but still needs to be passed by the German Bundesrat. This will happen during November 2019. The benefit assessment procedure regulations are set to enter into force the day following its publication. On January 1, 2020, the implant registry regulations will take effect. The following devices are to be included in the implant registry: Joint arthroplasty (for hip, knee, shoulder, elbow, and ankle); breast implants; heart valves and other cardiac implants; implantable de-

fibrillators and cardiac pacemakers; neurostimulators; cochlear implants; vertebral body replacement systems and disc replacement devices; stents. A start will be made with two areas of care, hip and knee joint endoprostheses (expected from mid-2021) as well as breast implants (no date has been given yet).

The fact that the draft bill was improved and a genuine "healthcare registry" is to be created, which not only takes the implant but also medical facilities into account, is evaluated as positive by the medtech industry. Another positive aspect is the mandatory nature of the registry as well as the involvement of manufacturers in evaluations and the registry's committees. Read more at www.medinsight.de.

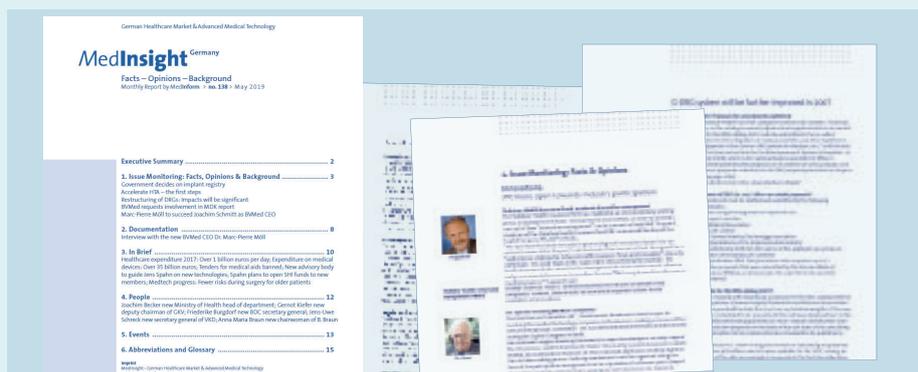
Medtech Survey: Stabilization through exports

Berlin. Sentiment in the German medtech industry has clouded. The expected domestic increase in sales of 3.3 percent means a decline compared to the previous year (4.2 percent). Export remains a stabilizing factor. With an expected sales growth of 5.8 percent, the worldwide growth of the medical technology companies is still significantly stronger than domestic growth. These are the results of the 2019 Medtech Autumn Survey conducted by BVMed, in

which 102 medical technology companies took part. "The main reason for the subdued mood is the EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR), which is responsible for a lack of resources at the Notified Bodies, longer assessment procedures, and price increases," said BVMed CEO **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll** while presenting the results of the survey.

The complete results can be accessed at www.bvmed.de/medienseminar-2019.

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 **Dr. Marc-Pierre Möll** and **Manfred Beerres** in cooperation with **Ralph Ives** and **Joe Gatewood** from **AdvaMed**. **MedInsight** gives the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market.

Topics of the new issue are e.g.: Implant Registry passed by German Bundestag; Medtech Autumn Survey: Stabilization through exports; Half-time upshot for Germany's coalition government is

mostly positive; G-BA to review "high-risk healthcare apps"; Germans satisfied with healthcare system; Private Health Insurance establishes start-up fund for digital medical devices; Benchmark value for hospital costs at 2.99 percent in 2019; BVMed establishes sectoral interest group Robotics; Medical Review Board Law: Greater involvement of the medtech industry; Better prevention of infections for patients and staff.

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