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MDR: Increasing Requirements for the Industry

Bonn. Experts believe that the European Medical Device Regulation, MDR, will come into force in mid-2017. Three years later, from mid-2020, the application of the new rules for medical devices will be mandatory. In view of the many new requirements on manufacturers of medical devices this will be a huge challenge, experts speaking at a BVMed conference said. The tight schedule for the implementation will require the manufacturers to prioritize their steps.

BVMed Advocates Equal Patient Rights

Berlin. With regard to their rights, patients who require medical technical aids must not be placed in a worse position than patients with cancer, BVMed demands in view of the regulations for tenders provided for by the Reinforcement Law for Medicinal Products, AMVSG. Background: According to the intentions of the AMVSG law, patients with cancer should continue to have the patient right of freely choosing their pharmacy also when services are put out to tender, and even when the tender procedure is already completed. The Medical Technical Aids Law, HHVG, is currently being negotiated as well. Thus, BVMed demands that patients who require medical technical aids should be granted the right to freely choose their care provider even with regard to tendered services.

One in Three Hospital Patients Underwent Surgery in 2015

About seven of the almost 19.7 million patients who were treated in German hospitals in 2015 underwent surgery. The latest figures of the Federal Statistical Office indicate that this share has not changed compared to the previous year.

Rudolf Henke Re-elected

Berlin. CDU member of parliament Rudolf Henke has been re-elected chairman of Marburger Bund. The 62-year-old internist has been heading the union that represents the interests of hospital physicians for ten years.

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Medical Device Compliance Code Updated

Berlin. The BVMed board has adopted the updated Medical Device Code on healthcare compliance. "The code provides a summary overview, in a simplified and comprehensible language, of the current laws governing interactions in the healthcare system, and provides rules of conduct that should be observed in the interaction between the industry and the healthcare sector," says BVMed CEO **Joachim M. Schmitt**. The Medical Device Code can be downloaded at www.bvmed.de/kodex.

The slightly revised Medical Device Code also takes into account the new anti-corruption provisions for the healthcare sector. Already the

original Medical Device Code, which was agreed with the umbrella organizations of the statutory health insurance funds in 1997, did not differentiate between employed and independent physicians.

The philosophy of BVMed and of the Medical Device Code is to explain laws and make them comprehensible, provide practical guidance, and offer training, says Mr. Schmitt. BVMed does not intend to go beyond existing laws and create own regulations. Irrespective thereof, however, companies and stakeholders in the healthcare market are free to set up stricter rules for themselves. More at www.medinsight.de.

Orthopedic Surgeons Complain about Lower DRGs

Berlin. The German Association for Orthopedic Surgery and Trauma Surgery, DGOU, sees patient safety and high quality standards in orthopedic health services at risk. Its fear is triggered by repeated cuts in reimbursement in the so-called Diagnosis Related Groups, DRG.

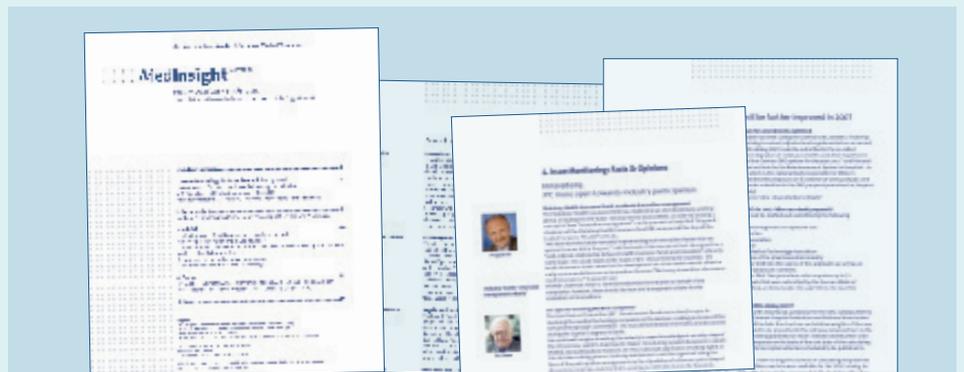
The partners in the German self-governing healthcare system decided to lower the flat-rate payments for hip replacement and numerous health services in spine therapy as of January 1,

2017. This might lead to a decrease in the provision of high-quality health services, an increase in waiting times for surgeries and even faster patient discharge from hospitals.

Mainly specialized hospitals for orthopedic and trauma surgery with high quality standards and complex case management will be severely affected by the current devaluation of the DRG remuneration codes.

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: Increasing Requirements for the Industry; Orthopedic Surgeons Complain about Lower DRGs; Sickness Fund and Company Are Kicking Off a Campaign on Obe-

sity; Medical Device Compliance Code Updated; One in Three Hospital Patients Underwent Surgery in 2015; Fixed Cost Degression Discount Limited to 35 Percent; 2017 OPS Codes: DIMDI Publishes Final Version; BVMed Advocates Equal Patient Rights.

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