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JFC Chairman Hecken: System Needs More Money

Berlin. Since demography and medical advances are driving costs up, the German healthcare system will require more financial resources in future. Otherwise medical services will have to be rationed, **Josef Hecken**, Chairman of the Joint Federal Committee (JFC), claims. More at: www.medinsight.de.

Health Expenditure Increases by 3 Percent

Wiesbaden. Expenditure on health in Germany across all payers, including private households, totaled 293.8 billion euros in 2011. This means that health expenditure accounted for 11.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). These are the numbers provided in the new health expenditure report presented by the Federal Statistical Office in April 2013. More at: www.medinsight.de.

Hospital Federation: OECD Study Draws Wrong Conclusions

Berlin. **Georg Baum**, General Manager of the German Hospital Federation (Deutsche Krankenhausgesellschaft, DKG), said that the recently published OECD study "Managing Hospital Volumes" attests to the German hospitals an exceptionally high level of care and services in international comparison as well as a quality assurance system that is unique in the world, and unrestricted and comprehensive access to quality medicine for patients.

People:

Franz Knieps New BKK Chairman

Berlin. The supervisory board of the umbrella organization of the Company Health Insurance Funds (BKK) has appointed **Franz Knieps**, formerly head of department in the Federal Ministry of Health, as Chairman of the political lobbying association of the company health insurance funds. The 56-year-old lawyer, political scientist and literary scholar was one of the closest employees of Federal Minister of Health **Ulla Schmidt** (SPD) between 2003 and 2009.

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Hospitals Receive One Billion Euros More

Berlin. The German hospitals will receive about 1.1 billion euros more in 2013 and 2014. The Federal Cabinet approved the proposals submitted to the Federal Ministry of Health for short-term effective measures of financial aid to hospitals on April 17th, 2013. The SPD opposition, who holds the majority in the Bundesrat Chamber of German Parliament, had already signaled it would agree.

Minister of Health **Daniel Bahr** said that apart from these short-term measures, the quantity control of hospital services must find a new ba-

sis in the medium term. "A self-critical analysis shows that we have created wrong incentives," Bahr admits about the DRG system. All hospitals want to provide more services, but not all of them can do so. For instance, small remote hospitals are not in the position to increase quantities. At the same time, Bahr says, not every quantity increase is wrong. If a hospital that provides good services consequently attracts more patients, this is nothing bad per se.

More information in the new MedInsight Germany issue: www.medinsight.de.

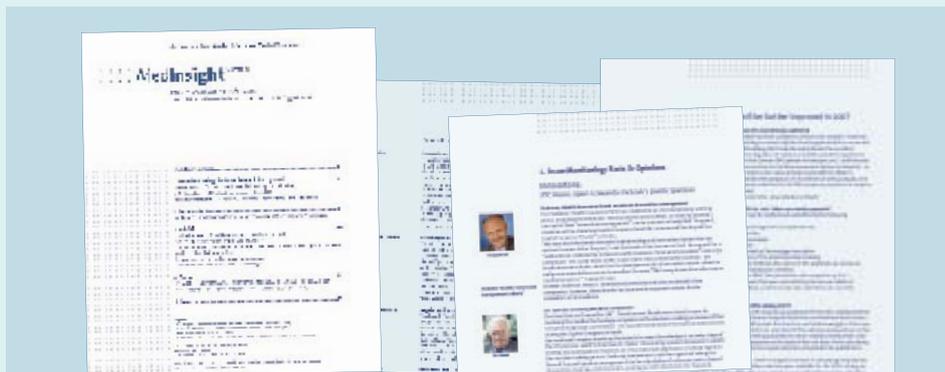
Medtech: Post Market Surveillance Is Essential

Bonn. According to attorney at law **Dr. Volker Lückner**, a well-functioning market surveillance system by state authorities was essential for people's confidence in the safety of medical devices. In this field, improvements were about to be introduced in Germany through a uniform market surveillance based on quality assurance to identify and sort out the sheep from the goats at an earlier stage, said the legal expert on the occasion of the BVMed conference "Clinical Evaluation and Market Surveillance of Medical Devices" in Bonn.

Lückner welcomed the new implementing rule for the regulatory authorities requiring the application of quality management procedures to medical device surveillance. Medical device manufacturers had to comply with these requirements since 1993. A well-functioning market surveillance was essential for confidence in the safety of medical devices. Inspections, discussions with staff and drawing of samples could contribute to counteracting criminal practices more effectively in future.

More at www.bvmed.de (Press Releases).

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** together with AdvaMed. **MedInsight** gives the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market.

Topics from the new issue are e.g.: JFC Chairman Hecken: System Needs More Money; Hospitals Receive One Billion Euros More; Health Expenditure Increases by 3 Percent; Post Market Surveillance: Sort-

ing out the Sheep from the Goats; Hospital Federation: OECD Study Draws Wrong Conclusions; Number of Ambulatory Operations in Germany Rising; Law against Corruption in the Healthcare Service.

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