

Federal Joint Committee has reconstituted itself

Berlin. In its first public meeting that took place in mid-July 2008, the joint self-government of statutory health insurance funds, physicians, dentists, psychotherapists and hospitals have reconstituted their top level decision-making body, the Joint Federal Committee (JFC, Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss - G-BA). **Dr. Rainer Hess**, who had been the honorary non-partisan chairman, will now perform his duties as full-time non-partisan chairman. He will be supported in his task by non-partisan full-time members **Dr. Harald Deisler** and **Josef Siebig**.

Federal SHI association has started work

Berlin. The Federal Association of the Statutory Health Insurance Funds (GKV-Spitzenverband) started work on July 1st and thereby has taken over its pivotal role within the German health care system. As the main lobbying organization of the Statutory Health and Long-term Care Insurance Funds, the Federal Association shapes the general conditions for medical care in Germany. At the federal level the new institution is also a negotiating partner for physician, pharmacist and hospital organizations. It takes over the tasks of the former associations of seven different types of health insurance funds. www.gkv-spitzenverband.de.

BVMed Conference: "Healthcare services research should close knowledge gaps"

Berlin. The still relatively novel field of healthcare services and outcome research will become more important for the healthcare market and medical technology companies in the future. Healthcare services research projects offer the advantage of investigating modern medical technology therapies under everyday conditions to point out their medical usefulness and move it "closer to reality", according to the experts who attended a BVMed Conference dealing with the current level of technology and the perspectives of care research in Germany. According to health economist **Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wasem**, healthcare services research studies will be also more often consulted for reimbursement decisions in the future – a reality which "will be unavoidable for companies." The fact that healthcare services and outcome research can show that effects in

everyday care are larger than those obtained under experimental conditions should also interest medical technology companies according to IGES Director **Prof. Dr. Bertram Häussler**.

In the opinion of **Dr. Jörg Lauterberg** from the Local Health Care Fund (AOK) Federal Association, there is a great need for healthcare services research: "We must close the existing knowledge gaps." It would be important to choose subjects relevant to care, to improve methodical quality and to fully utilize the potentials of routine data. "Good data become more important when new examination and treatment methods are introduced and they provide the companies with better arguments when it comes to policy and the statutory health insurance funds", concluded moderator and BVMed managing director **Joachim M. Schmitt**. More at: www.bvmed.de (Press).

Study: Germans want individualized health services

Munich. Germans want a different healthcare system. 93 percent want individualized services and are prepared to pay for them. Health insurance companies, doctors and hospitals are expanding their range of products and services, such as additional services for self-pay patients or preventative measures. This is the conclusion of a study by Roland Berger Strategy Consultants on strategies of providers in the German healthcare system and their acceptance by the public. The study comprised a sur-

vey of 1,000 adults. The result: Germans have switched from service recipients to active customers.

„People want a different healthcare offering," says **Joachim Kartte**, Head Partner of the Pharma & Healthcare Practice at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. „They are already prepared for the new world of healthcare." The overwhelming majority of those surveyed is also prepared to dig a little deeper into their pockets for individualized services. More at: www.rolandberger.com.

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Facts – Opinions – Background



Berlin. 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 **Sarah Smiley** from AdvaMed. MedInsight gives the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market.

Topics from the new issue are e. g.: *German hospitals receive more money; German DRG Institute working on DRG Catalog 2009; The Federal Joint Committee has reconstituted itself; Healthcare services research should close knowledge gaps; Federal SHI association has started work; Report: program for heart patients is successful; Orthopedics and trauma surgery association founded; Roland Berger study on the healthcare market 2008.*

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