

Innovation Conference: Medical progress needs partnerships

Berlin. The medical technology industry offers great opportunities for growth and employment in Germany. This stated the Economic Secretary **Hartmut Schauerte** on the BVMed Innovation Conference. Speakers from health insurance companies and hospitals stressed the need to prove the benefits of modern medical technologies for patients more concrete. This would require cooperation between health insurance and industry. More at www.bvmed.de (press).

Cardiovascular diseases are number one cause of death

Wiesbaden. In Germany cardiovascular diseases are still the most common cause of death. Especially the over 65-year-olds died from the effects of these diseases in the year 2007. This information can be gathered from the results of the current cause of death statistics compiled by the Federal Statistical Office. The second most common cause of death is cancer according to the Federal Statistical Office. In the long run, mortality has decreased in all federal states since 1990. More information on diseases statistics and causes of death at www.destatis.de.

German Hospital Financing Law (KHRG): Hospitals to receive additional 3 billion euros

Berlin. The new German "health pool" starting in 2009 will be furnished with additional money for medical treatment and care. After the SHI-accredited physicians (plus 2.7 billion euros), the hospitals are also to receive additional billions of euros next year. The health insurance funds will pay approximately three billion euros more if the federal states simultaneously agree to negotiations about future commitments for building hospitals, according to the plan of the German Federal Minister of Health, **Ulla Schmidt**.

The German Federal Ministry of Health published a draft for the so-called German Hospital Financing Law (KHRG) at the end of August. The proposal excludes federal state funding of investment financing. However, the technical part which regulates the continuation of the DRG system after expiry of the conver-

gence phase at the end of 2008 remains unchanged, compared to a first working draft. The remuneration of the new examination and treatment methods (NUB) of the so-called DRG innovation clause are to be agreed upon and calculated outside of the revenue budget and total revenues. Contrary to the key points, the ministry draft law provides no possibility for filing an application for a NUB procedure during the year.

A hearing of experts and professional associations such as the German Medical Technology Association (BVMed) took place on September 4, 2008 in the ministry. The Ministry of Health informed those present that the legislative procedure could only be concluded in 2009. This means that the necessary technical regulations for the DRG system shall become effective retroactively. More information at www.medinsight.de.

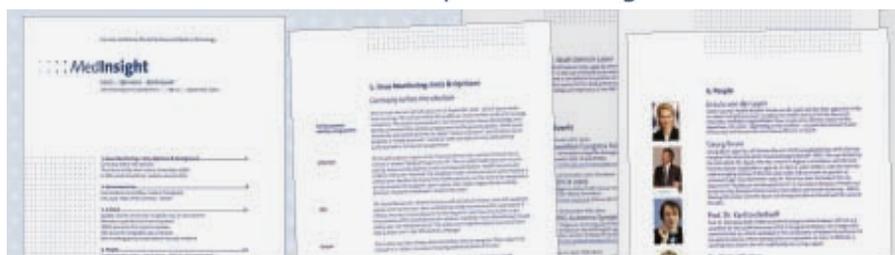
Patients are paying more and more themselves

Essen. Additional services not covered by health insurances are being inquired more and more strongly by patients. This includes ultrasound examinations as well as measurement of intra-ocular pressure, removal of tattoos or health checks before diving excursions. For the first time, physicians had a turnover of more than one billion Euros with these services last year. This can be seen from a study by the Scientific Institute of the General Medical Insurance Plans (Wido). More than 25 per

cent of members of the statutory health insurance (SHI) paid money from their own pocket last year for the so-called individual health services according to the study. The study said that it mainly is the physician who takes the initiative: 67.1 per cent of the services rendered are put down to a corresponding offer by the physician, only 32.4 per cent are inquired by the patients. The services are sold above all to high earners and patients with above-average education.

MedInsight Germany: Latest News on Europe's Biggest Market!

::::: **MedInsight** Germany
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.: *Hospitals to receive additional 3 billion euros; BQS publishes Hospital Quality Report for 2007; Private health insurance is suffering; Documentation: MedTech Compass on Healthcare Compliance; Government to announce SHI contribution rate; SHI finances clearly in the red; OPS version 2009 published as preliminary version; DRG catalog draft version 2009; Agreement on physicians' fees.*

AdvaMed, EUCOMED and BVMed member companies can receive „MedInsight Germany“ at a discounted subscription price of 600 euros per year (10 issues). The normal subscription fee is 1,200 euros for one year.

You can order a free trial copy of MedInsight at: insight@medinform.de.
More at: www.medinsight.de.