

Job Engine Medtech

Berlin. Despite the increased price pressure the medical technology industry remains a job engine in Germany. According to the autumn survey conducted by BVMed among its member companies, 55 percent of the medtech companies have created new jobs over the previous year. For nearly 30 percent of the companies the number of employees remained stable. Projected to the member companies these are 4,200 new jobs. The medical technology industry employs some 170,000 people in Germany.

DRG Catalog 2009

Berlin. The partners in self-administration – the national associations of SHI funds and hospitals - have agreed upon the modules of the German DRG (Diagnosis Related Groups) system for 2009. The core element of the agreement is the DRG catalog, which will contain a total of 1,192 different accountable DRGs next year.

Federal SHI Rate

Berlin. The German Government has set the uniform contribution rate to statutory health insurance funds at 15.5 per cent of salaries as of January 1, 2009. From these, 7.3 percentage points are to be paid by the employer, the rest by the employee. The health insurance funds had demanded a contribution rate of 15.8 per cent. The current average rate stands at 14.9 per cent.

Partnerships for Medical Technology Progress

Berlin. Advances in medical technology need alliances: Cooperations among industry, hospitals and statutory health insurance funds are the basis for innovative introductions in the medtech sector. This is the conclusion reached by numerous conferences about innovative introductions that took place in recent months in which industry, hospitals and statutory health insurance funds participated. The medtech industry must try to demonstrate that the usually higher initial costs of a new process should not be considered just by themselves. Rather, the total costs of a certain treatment must be charged and assessed. For this purpose, we need an improved data information system about the use of medical technology under “everyday life” conditions – in other words, in clinical and medical practice.

The BVMed innovation conference in autumn 2008, attended by **Hartmut Schauer**, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Economics, and numerous managers of the statutory health insurance funds, hospitals and the industry, clearly stressed the fact that advances in medical technology need associations of hospitals, statutory health insurance funds and industry.

Speakers of the statutory health insurance funds and hospitals stressed the need to better demonstrate the benefit of modern medical technology for patients. For **Prof. Dr. Jens Ricke**, Hospital Director of the Magdeburg University Medical Center, prospective studies that show the advantages of innovation for the patient are part of this. “Industry should not leave physicians and hospitals alone in this” was his appeal. Moderator and hospital expert **Prof. Heinz Lohmann** regarded a close system association of hospitals and industry as the future model for developments in innovation.

Dr. Thomas Schürholz of the Gmünd Substitute Sickness Fund (GEK) also pleaded for a closer collaboration with the industry in research projects that deal with everyday care. “In this, we need cooperation between statutory health insurance funds and the industry”, according to the health insurance fund manager.

Medical technology and BVMed companies as their industry association are willing to engage in it. Industry representatives expressed interest in strengthening the creation of networks to shape therapeutic concepts that include statutory health insurance funds and the industry. More: www.bvmed.de (Press).

New BVMed Group „Soft Tissue Repair Implants“

Berlin. The German Medical Technology Association BVMed has established a new Sectoral Interest Group „Soft Tissue Repair Implants“ (FB STRI). The new group represents the interests of the suppliers of implants for reinforcements of soft

tissue such as hernias or ligaments. The aim is the intercompany discussion of the joint interests and needs for this type of product as well as the coordination of resulting activities, e.g. regarding reimbursement and aspects of quality.

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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.:

Health insurance funds rate to rise to 15.5 per cent; DRG catalog 2009 passed; Improvements in the medical technical aids market; Partnerships for medical technology progress; ICD-10 version 2009 published; Health insurance funds are planning merger; Diabetes research; New monitoring at the RKI; New BVMed working group for soft tissue repair implants.

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