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Conference on the health pool: Faster access to innovations

Berlin. The Federal Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Affairs are closely working together to strengthen and to encourage a faster access of medtech innovations to the health care market. "In coordinatin with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, we observe the processes in order to reduce obstacles to innovations," stated Franz Knieps of the Federal Ministry of Health during the MedInform conference on the impacts of the health pool to the medtech industry on 26 February 2009 in Berlin. More at: www.bvmed.de (Press Releases).

Surplus for the statutory health insurance in 2008

Berlin. The statutory health insurance funds finished the year 2008 with a surplus of around 730 million euros. In 2008 the revenue per insured person increased by 3.8 percent. On the expenditure side treatment in hospital was again the largest position with 52.6 billion euros (plus 3.5 percent). A significant part was again made up by the expenditure for pharmaceuticals (29.2 billion euros/plus 5.3 percent) as well as physicians' fees for ambulatory care with almost 24.3 billion euros (plus 5.0 percent). The expenditure for medical technical aids increased by 3.6 percent from 4.735 billion euros (2007) to 4.905 billion euros (2008).

Communication Congress Medical Technology 2009

Cologne. The annual "Communication Congress Medical Technology" wants to sensitize the industry for the challenges ahead and strengthen its communication efforts. The fifth congress, entitled "The three languages of the medtech industry" will take place on June 9-10, 2009 in Cologne and offer numerous case studies, journalist reports and workshops. More: www.bvmed.de (events).

Statement of BVMed and DGTelemed on the importance of telemedicine

Berlin. BVMed and the German Society for Telemedicine, require in a joint press release the nationwide inclusion of telemedicine in the regular care in Germany. The health insurance funds should finance the costs of telemedicine hardware and data at cardiac implants, stated BVMed Director General Joachim M. Schmitt.

Survey: Medtech sector withstands economic crisis

Berlin. Only 4 percent of companies in the medtech sector have reduced their workforce in consequence of the global financial crisis. This information results from a survey conducted by BVMed, illuminating the situation on the medical technology market. 120 BVMed member companies participated in this online survey in March 2009. The indirect consequences of the economic crisis, however, certainly do pose challenges for the sector. The survey results confirm that on the whole the medtech sector is well-placed in the German market landscape:

- > One fourth of the companies currently feel no consequences of the economic and financial crisis

on their business operations.

- > Only one third of the companies report drops in sales in the first months of 2009 compared to the good previous year.
- > Actual measures such as calling a stop to hiring were initiated by 32 percent of the companies. Only 4 percent of the companies had to reduce jobs in connection with the economic crisis.
- > More drastic consequences, such as problems gaining credit for financial requirements, withdrawal of investors, shutdown of production capacities or reduced working hours play no or only a very slight role for the medtech companies.

BVMed Calls for Using Existing eStandards

Frankfurt. Improved coordination among hospitals, suppliers, and service providers is necessary for jointly establishing and advancing standards for electronic healthcare data processes. That was the conclusion of the 11th eHealth conference by BVMed. Expert presenters made it clear to attendees that standards have been set already in a variety of fields, including in classification systems using eCI@ss, in product master data, in exchange for-

mats using XML, and in product labelling using bar codes, Data Matrix codes, and radio-frequency identification (RFID). "The standards are available," said BVMed chairman Dr. Meinrad Luga, "they just need to be utilized. "The technology exists. The standards exist. We need to advance and establish them together—in partnership and in a coordinated manner", said BVMed Director General Joachim M. Schmitt. More at: www.bvmed.de (Press Releases).

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



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.:

Parties position themselves in election campaign; The medtech sector withstands the economic crisis; MedTech workshop discussions on innovations; Health barometer 2009: Germans satisfied; Documentation "Industry Report MedTech

in Germany 2009"; Surplus for the statutory health insurance in 2008; Fewer health insurance funds; New study on hospital privatization; Telemedicine should be used nationwide.

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