

Health Insurance Reform in Germany. Moving to an Universal, Flat Rate System?



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Reviews

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(Yvette Marquardt)*

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM IN GERMANY. MOVING TO AN UNIVERSAL, FLAT RATE SYSTEM?

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GRIN Verlag GmbH Jun 2015, 2015. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x3 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Titel. Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2014 in the subject Economy - Health Economics, grade: 1,30, University of Kassel (Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre), course: Social Policy, language: English, abstract: In international comparison, Germany ranks 4th among OECD countries in health expenditure as a share of GDP in 2011. It amounted 11.3% of GDP in 2011 which is 2%-points above the OECD average of 9.3%. Only the United States (17.7%), the Netherlands (11.9%) and France (11.6%) are spending more on health. In addition, German health expenditure increased, in real terms, at a rate of circa 2% p.a. on average in 2000-2010, but slowed down to 1.1% in 2011. However, expenditure continues to grow. With regard to these figures, health care is one of the most important sectors in Germany. With more than 6 million employees and a gross value added of almost EUR 268 bn in 2013, it represents 11% of the German economy. While expenditure is on the rise, the number of contributors who finance the health care system decreases. As a result, the question of how to finance the growing demand for health services occurs. In particular, a closer look at the statutory health insurance (SHI) is necessary as it financed 57% of total health expenditure in 2011. Since the report 'Achieving financial sustainability for the social security systems' by the Rürup-Commission, two major reform proposals are discussed: the citizens' insurance ('Bürgerversicherung'), a universal system of health care, and a system of flat-rate health premiums ('pauschale Gesundheitsprämien'). These approaches are intensively discussed by politicians and economists who search for an appropriate solution for a health care reform. Therefore, the following question should be answered by this...



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