



WHAT'S NEW

Last updated July 2009

The European Health Technology Institute for Socio-Economic Research (EHTI) researchers presented latest findings at International Conferences in Singapore and Innsbruck

The European Health Technology Institute for Socio-Economic Research is an independent research institute aimed at developing data and evidence on the social and economic value of medical technology and its impact on the economy and welfare of European countries.

Further details and copies of the presentations can be found on the [EHTI website](#).

Health issues on the agenda at the start of the Swedish Presidency

The new influenza, antibiotic resistance, prevention of alcohol-related harm and patients' rights were some of the issues on the agenda when the EU health ministers met in Jönköping for the first informal ministerial meeting in Sweden, 6–9 July. "These are concrete and important issues that affect a great number of people", said Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Göran Hägglund. Together with Maria Larsson, Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health, he was hosting the first two days of the meeting, on 6–7 July. [Read more...](#)

OECD releases 2009 edition of “Society at a glance”

Society at a Glance offers a concise quantitative overview of social trends and policies across the OECD. The 2009 edition includes a wide range of information on social issues – such as demography and family characteristics, employment and unemployment, poverty and inequality, social and health care expenditure, and work and life satisfaction. [Read more...](#)

Health Policy Forum publishes strategic priorities 2010

The aim of the Health Policy Forum is to bring together umbrella organisations representing stakeholders in the health sector to ensure that the EU's health strategy is open, transparent and responds to the public concerns. The intention is to provide an opportunity to organise consultations, to exchange views and experience on a wide range of topics, and to assist in implementation and follow-up of specific initiatives. [Read more.....](#)



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Unions warn EU against healthcare marketisation

"We cannot let market forces run healthcare systems," Europe's leading public service and healthcare unions have told EU health ministers. A joint statement issued by the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) and the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers Association (HOSPEEM), warns that the so-called "marketisation" of health services will result in a "two-tier system of healthcare delivery". Read the [full statement](#).

European doctors frustrated with their healthcare systems

Research shows that European doctors believe excessive interference and bureaucracy are hurting patients. European doctors are frustrated with their healthcare systems and administrative burdens. They are concerned that increasing bureaucracy is reducing time with patients and reducing patient health. [Read more...](#)

Reprocessing of Medical Devices: Presentations Commission workshop posted online

The European Commission has published presentations of the 5 December 2008 workshop in Brussels concerning the reprocessing of medical devices. Download [the presentations](#).

Germany: Launches patient safety institute

The new German patient safety institute, Institut für Patientensicherheit (IfPS) was founded jointly by the patient safety working group (APS) and the Friedrich-Wilhelms university in Bonn. The APS, whose aim is to research and analyse the reasons behind medical errors and develop strategies to avoid them, identified the need for greater attention to patient safety in 2005. The working group, which has always had the ministry's support, has been behind recent campaigns such as "clean hands" and "learning from mistakes". [Read more...](#)

USA: MRSA killing more people than AIDS, homicide, Congresswoman warns

More Americans are dying from MRSA infections caught in hospitals than from AIDS, murder and other high-profile causes of death, a US lawmaker has warned. Introducing the MRSA Infection Prevention and Patient Protection Act (HR2937) into the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Jackie Speier said that



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screening for, and preventing MRSA in hospitals would save tens of thousands of lives and billions of dollars every year. Few healthcare facilities in the US currently screen patients. She commented that MRSA infected people indiscriminate of their age, health status or the quality of the institution.

USA: Senators introduce comparative effectiveness bill

Congress took an important step for health care when it provided \$1.1 billion to fund "comparative effectiveness research" as part of the stimulus legislation this year. A bill has been introduced that would set up a "Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute" to compare the effectiveness of medical devices and drugs. The institute would provide doctors with unbiased data on the effectiveness of the treatments available to them to reduce the rate of growth in healthcare costs.

In an editorial article which appeared in the Washington Post, Johnson & Johnson's Chief Executive Officer William C. Weldon spoke out on what works in healthcare focusing in on the US Congress' comparative effectiveness research efforts. [Read the article](#)

USA: Medical Technology prices increase more slowly than prices in other areas of medicine in USA

Although the US healthcare budget tipped over the \$2 trillion-mark in 2006, heightening calls from Congress for cost-saving health reform, the medical technology industry was not responsible for the spiralling bill, a new report says. The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) was joined by a leading health actuary and an expert on economic accounting, for the release of an updated study that found medical technology is a small and slow growing part of national health expenditures (NHE).

The report found that in 2006, medical device spending totaled \$131.6 billion or 6.2 percent of total national health expenditures (\$2,112.7 billion) and that during the 18-year period covered by the study (1989-2006), medical device spending rose only slightly as a percent of NHE—growing from 5.4 percent in 1989 to 6.2 percent in 2006— a 0.8 percentage point increase over the 18-year period.

Download [the full report](#).

UK: New blueprint announced for more innovative healthcare delivery

A new Blueprint to put innovation at the heart of healthcare delivery was launched by Lord Drayson, UK Science Minister, and Lord Darzi, UK Health Minister, at Imperial College London on 14 July. The UK's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will consider which medicines, medical devices



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and diagnostics will be included in the blueprint by introducing an "Innovation Pass", a 3-year initiative that will be piloted in 2010/2011 with a budget of £25 million. Although the focus of the scheme is to make selected innovative medicines available on the NHS for a time-limited period, it is to be expected medical devices and diagnostics will also be involved.

UK: Step Change in NHS commercial expertise

Commercial and procurement skills across the NHS will receive a major boost to help deliver high quality, personalised care for patients, following the publication of a new Commercial Operating Model introduced by the UK Department of Health. The NHS claims that the new Commercial Operating Model will strengthen commercial leadership within the NHS and help it deliver high quality care for every patient.

UK: The Patient Safety First Campaign – 12 months on

Twelve months have passed since the June 2008 launch of the Patient Safety First Campaign. Promoting a vision of an NHS with no avoidable death or harm, the campaign is helping to make patient safety the highest priority for everyone from chief executive to ward cleaner, surgeon to visiting carer. [Read more...](#)

Italy: Set to re-establish dedicated health ministry

Italian healthcare is set to soon again have its own government department. President Silvio Berlusconi has submitted to the government cabinet a draft bill proposing the reform of the recently-created ministry of employment, health and social affairs, which is headed by Maurizio Sacconi. Berlusconi's proposals feature the appointment of its subsecretary, Ferruccio Fazio, to the post of vice-minister of health, and that the new ministry shall have two subsecretaries. The government cabinet has been ordered to request that the draft bill be given priority passage through parliament.

Ireland: Counts 2008 medtech investments, continues to push non-hospital care

Ireland's €563m (\$785m) capital investment in medical equipment and in new and upgraded facilities feature in the Health Service Executive's 2008 annual report. More is to come, the HSE suggests, from the appointment last year of more than 40 clinical directors, who "will play a pivotal role in designing and leading the development of 21st century clinical services" in hospitals, community facilities and the homecare setting. The drive to optimise healthcare provision has resulted in an 8% increase in day case activity, compared with 2007, which has resulted in a 1.6% reduction in the number of patients requiring hospitalisation, according to the HSE.