Market Briefing

DRG inflator 2027 expected at 4.85%

2027 reimbursement growth for German hospitals is expected at 4.85%. This underscores the continued supportive funding environment for hospitals in Germany.

Key parameter for 2027 hospital reimbursement published

On September 15, 2026, the base wage rate, or rate of change, was set at 3.42%. It reflects the development of health insurance revenues, based on contributions, and is the key parameter for determining the annual increase in hospital reimbursement in Germany for 2027, the so-called DRG inflator. The 3.42% is net of the 1 percentage point deduction that applies across all healthcare sectors from 2027 to 2029 under the GKV Stabilization Act. It was published by the Ministry of Health.

Several components determine the 2027 DRG inflator

The 2027 DRG inflator is determined by several components, as defined by legislation.

1) <u>Base wage rate 3.42%</u>

   The 3.42% is net of the 1 percentage point deduction that applies across all healthcare sectors. The mechanism of deducting 1 percentage point from the initial base wage rate will remain in place from 2027 to 2029.

2) Additional 0.29% tariff effect

Hospitals receive compensation for the gap between the base wage rate and collectively agreed wage increases. For 2026, this translates into an additional 0.29% on top of the base wage rate.

3) Additional 1.14% one-time base effect

The 2026 state base case value will increase by 1.14%, establishing the starting base for 2027 reimbursement rates.

Calculation

3.42% (incl. 1% deduction) + 0.29% + 1.14% = 4.85%

Assessment of the expected 2027 DRG inflator effect on Helios Germany

The expected 2027 DRG inflator of 4.85% confirms the continued supportive reimbursement environment for German hospitals.

At the same time, the final reimbursement increase is influenced by factors such as catalogue and case-mix effects, treatment volumes, hospital-specific discounts, and the extent to which additional treatments are reimbursed at a discount. As a result, the expected DRG inflator should be viewed as an important reference point.

Helios Germany will continue to pursue its clustering initiatives and operational efficiency measures. Fresenius remains committed to Helios' Group structural EBIT margin ambition of 10-12% and continues to expect EBIT growth in 2027.

Next items to watch in German hospital funding

The €450 million additional hospital funding has been politically agreed and is expected to be legislatively implemented ahead of its planned introduction from January 2027.

*** end ***