

## Consolidation of hospitals

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## **CONSOLIDATION OF HOSPITALS**



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GRIN Verlag Gmbh Mrz 2014, 2014. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x147x38 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject Medicine - Hospital Environment, Clinical Medicine, grade: 1,7, Fresenius University of Applied Sciences Köln, language: English, abstract: Increasing cost pressure, shortage of staff, investment backlog more and more hospitals need to merge with others to survive. Apart from the decreasing capital investments of the federal states, especially the implementation of DRGs (Monopolkommission 2008, 313) and the possibility of integrated health care lead to an enormous cost pressure. In Germany, there is a dual hospital funding. The costs of operation are beared by payments of health insurance funds. Investment costs for new buildings or the replacement of capital goods are payed by the federal states. However, these allowances of investment are on the decrease for years, which leads to investment backlogs in hospital (Augurzky et al. 2009, 93). This implies that hospitals are supposed to invest, but their funds are too small to do so. In the long run, the economic efficiency suffers because it cannot compete with other hospitals regarding the technological progress (Augurzky et al. 2009, 13). The introduction of DRGs [Diagnosis Related Groups], the basis of calculation for hospitals, lead to an increasing pressure of working economically. In the old system, every day of a patient s stay in the hospital was refunded based on same-day hospital and nursing charges. In the new system, only occupant days within a predetermined period of hospitalization. The preterm discharge or a discharge exceeding the period of hospitalization results in discounts in payments, which often do not allow cost recovery (Eveslage 2006, 37-39). Accordingly, hospitals are under pressure to treat their patients fast and discharge them within the preset...

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