

## Berlin increasingly in demand as healthcare destination

3.5 per cent growth in number of international health tourists / Top medical conferences in Berlin this autumn

**Berlin, 12 October 2015** International patients are choosing Berlin for their healthcare: In 2014, 11,036 people from outside Germany were treated on either an outpatient or inpatient status at seven major Berlin hospitals that have agreed to participate as a benchmark group. This represents a jump of approximately 3.5 per cent in comparison to 2013 (10,670 patients), a statistic being released by *visitBerlin* on the occasion of the World Health Summit being held 11 to 13 October in the German capital.

**Burkhard Kieker**, CEO of *visitBerlin* comments: “Berlin offers health care at the highest level and more and more international patients are seeking treatment in our city’s renowned hospitals. We’ve seen a jump of 19 per cent in just the past three years. With our global marketing campaigns, we hope to garner even more attention to the excellent care available here in Berlin.”

Since 2012, a benchmark group of seven Berlin hospitals has been tracking the number of foreign patients coming to the German capital for treatment. The group includes Charité International, the Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin, Helios Healthcare International, MEOCLINIC GmbH, Paul Gerhardt Diakonie International, the Schlosspark-Klinik and Vivantes International Medicine.

*visitBerlin* actively markets the German capital as a centre for healthcare. The “Berlin Medical Tourism Guide”, issued in cooperation with Berlin Partner, will appear at the end of October. The guide will offer an overview of the hospitals and providers in Berlin who are especially prepared to meet the needs of international patients.

### **Berlin: home to top medical conferences**

Berlin has established itself as a major location for scientific and medical conferences: 12 per cent of the 62,000 events held in Berlin in the first half of 2015 were related to medicine, science and research.

One of the highlights this autumn will be the World Health Summit being held at the Federal Foreign Office from 11 to 13 October. The summit is considered one of the most important global forums on healthcare strategy. Some 1,300 experts from more than 80 countries are expected, including government ministers, Nobel Prize winners, and CEOs of international companies. Topics being addressed at this year’s summit include “Big Data” and “Climate Change and Health”. More information about the World Health Summit can be found at [worldhealthsummit.org](http://worldhealthsummit.org).

Other significant medical conferences being held in the coming weeks include the “German Congress of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery” (20–23 October) with 11,000 participants and the “DGPPN Kongress 2015”, the gathering of the German Society for Psychiatry,

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# Press Release



Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy (25–28 November), with 9,000 specialists from Germany and abroad expected.

(2,924 characters)

## **visitBerlin**

"We know Berlin." Berlin Tourismus & Congress GmbH, under the brand *visitBerlin*, has been using that knowledge since 1993 to promote Berlin all over the world as a great travel destination. The *visitBerlin* Berlin Convention Office markets the many convention and meeting options offered by the German capital. After London and Paris, Berlin is third-most popular European city for tourism, with 28.7 million overnight stays in the German capital during 2014. Berlin has been among the top five most popular destinations for conventions and meetings for the past ten years. As a tour operator, the private company offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. *visitberlin* operates six Berlin Tourist Information Offices. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. +49(0)30-25 00 25) provides information on the complete range of tourist offerings in Berlin. [visitBerlin.de](http://visitBerlin.de) provides information about the capital in 14 languages.

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