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Preface

Welcome note ICIC13 organizing committee

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Welcome to the 13th International Conference on Integrated Care!

The Bundesverband Managed Care (BMC) is very glad to be involved as a cooperation partner in this exciting event. The International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) and BMC have much in common. Both promote the exchange of knowledge among experts in all areas of healthcare in order to further develop structures of care, work towards more patient-oriented approaches and support the international exchange of ideas.

Therefore, we are especially happy that the INIC 13 is taking place in Berlin. The German healthcare system has made significant progress over the last 15 years. Over time, the range of special forms of care has become a key tool for competition among the statutory health insurances. There is an increasing awareness that different groups of patients require differentiated care options and that they must be addressed in individually tailored ways. In addition, many co-operations have been formed. Currently approximately 30,000 physicians participate in 400 physician networks.

However, there is still much work to be done. Lapses in the continuity of treatment when transferring from outpatient care to the stationary sector, and unnecessary repeat or multiple examinations still characterize the reality of healthcare in Germany. In addition, there are the great challenges brought about by the aging population and the increase in chronic diseases and multimorbidity. Regions which are difficult to supply require new forms of care. Therefore it is important to reduce the hurdles for spreading integrated care, and to implement successful pilot projects on a large scale.

With the improved continuity of care, the design of incentive-appropriate compensation systems and innovative organizational forms, the INIC 13 has chosen just the right focus. I am convinced that this event will provide valuable impulses for the further development of healthcare. There is no better way than to exchange experiences internationally and to mutually learn from best practice examples.

I would therefore like to thank the IFIC, the Organizing Committee members and everyone else who contributed to the conceptual design and organization of the event. I wish all participants interesting conversations and contacts, exciting ideas and insights, and of course a lot of fun at INIC 13!