

# A QUESTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

HEALTHCARE | LABORATORY CHAIR

## When the infirmary makes you sick

If you go to infirmary, you are supposed to recover and get well. Unfortunately, the contrary can also happen. Infections caused by infirmary bugs are common – in German infirmaries too. According to the German Federal Ministry of Health, there are 400,000 to 600,000 of these “nosocomial infections” each year. Around ten percent of these are caused by multi-resistant bacteria. Among them, the now notorious MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus). An MRSA infection cannot always be medicated. Many infections can be treated with antibiotics, yet what was once deemed a miracle solution is now losing its effectiveness due to overuse. Several of the MRSA pathogens are resistant to nearly all antibiotics and are thus extremely dangerous. It all comes down to timing here - the faster a pathogen is identified, the better the chances of survival for the patient. Many infirmaries therefore focus on early detection, with the testing done in their own healthcare laboratories. This also presents an extensive challenge, when it comes to the equipment.

## Small-sized healthcare laboratories - Big accountability

Most infirmaries have their own in-house laboratory. Clinical chemistry testing is carried out in these decentralised healthcare laboratories, as well as a majority of the immunohaematological analyses. Around one third of the infirmaries in Germany also process bacteria and virus samples in-house. According to a study realised by the German Infirmary Institute, the pace at which the samples are processed is what counts in clinical laboratory diagnostics – not just when it comes to determining the certain type of infection. A quick diagnosis is crucial for the successful care of the patient and is considered by medical scientists to be one of the most important services performed by healthcare laboratories. Results need to be available around the clock, which means an infirmary laboratory needs to be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Despite the time pressures, the laboratory employees need to be able to work with the utmost precision. After all, laboratory results always need to be exact – a person's life may depend on it. Healthcare laboratories also need to consider the fact that according to the German Federal Statistical Office, health expenditure outpaced gross domestic product for the fourth consecutive year. This was €344.2 billion in 2015, which is €4,213 per capita.

## Significant tasks necessitate reliable support

Medical laboratories contribute significantly to an effective and modern healthcare system. They provide physician with the information they need to take life-saving measures at the right time. Considering their importance in the treatment chain, employees in healthcare laboratories need solutions that are in line with clinical diagnostic needs. This is not only the case for the technology, but also for the laboratory furniture. Laboratory solutions from Bimos are not only fairly priced; they are also perfectly tailored to



the hygienic requirements of an infirmary. Laboratory chairs, laboratory standing aids and laboratory stools from Bimos are also compact in design and need minimal space in the small infirmary laboratories. In order to accelerate daily analyses and guarantee accurate results, they support employees by keeping them in an ergonomically correct position and make life easier thanks to simple operation.

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