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To the media representatives
from the press, radio and TV

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Press release

High quality in hospitals despite shortage of funds

In Zurich this week over 500 managers from hospitals all over Europe are looking for ways to maintain a high quality of patient care, even when public funds are scarce. On Thursday Mr Pascal Strupler, Director of the Federal office of public health opened the two-day Congress of the European Association of Hotel Managers around the theme "Roadmap To Top Quality".

Hospitals are facing ever greater challenges due to medical progress, the ageing of the population and the increasing shortage of resources for public services. Because the demand for medical and care services is growing and costs are rising year by year, hospital managers throughout Europe are being called upon to increase efficiency in the hospitals. In Switzerland, attempts are being made to improve cost effectiveness decisively with the introduction of the new DRG case-based lump sum system from 2012. The new funding system will make the hospitals' services more transparent and comparable nationwide. It is hoped that this will increase efficiency. But the intention is not that this should happen at the expense of treatment quality.

In Zürich this week over 500 hospital managers are discussing how this divide between efficiency and quality can best be overcome at the Congress of the European Association of Hotel Managers (EAHM). At the event organised by the Swiss Association of Hospital Managers (SVS), solutions along the lines of "best practice" are being presented. Besides considering how the DRG funding system may affect care quality, other questions will also be examined such as the effectiveness of lean processes in hospitals, the value of accreditations and certifications and the usefulness of quality assessment from the point of view of patient safety.

The European Association of Hotel Managers EAHM will analyse the results and exert pressure so that the experiences of hospital managers are also taken into account in European legislation. EAHM was established in 1970 and is based in Brussels. It represents the associations of hospital managers from 26 European countries including Switzerland, and has a total of 16,000 individual members. This makes EAHM one of the biggest hospital management organisations in the world, numbering managers of both public and private hospitals among its membership. EAHM sees itself as a lobbying organisation pursuing only objectives which lie in the interests of the public.

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