Developing innovative IT solutions for healthcare

In the initiative’s current phase, university hospitals and partner organisations are to establish and link data integration centres. These centres will allow research and healthcare data – that continue to reside securely on-site – to be aggregated and integrated across multiple locations. As an incentive to create new professorships for medical informatics, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is funding junior research groups at universities that commit to establishing these positions. In addition, MII consortia will develop innovative IT solutions for concrete medical use cases, demonstrating the benefits of high-tech digital healthcare services and infrastructures.

Examples of the first use cases are:
- Multiple sclerosis
- Parkinson’s disease
- Cardiology
- Infection control
- Appropriate antibiotics use
- Precision medicine for tumour patients
- Improvements to healthcare processes

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The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is investing a total of 150 million euros in the Medical Informatics Initiative (MII) to address key MII topics and challenges:

- patient records
- skills development
- data sharing
- consent
- research findings to the direct benefit of patients.

Within the four funded consortia — DIFUTURE, HiGHmed, MIRACUM and SMITH — nearly all German university hospitals and medical centres at over 30 locations cooperate with research institutions, businesses, health insurers and patient representatives. Their mission is to lay the foundations required to enable the use of research findings to the direct benefit of patients.

All MII consortia are represented in the National Steering Committee (NSC), with the aim of aligning activities and agreeing on strategies. Cross-consortia collaboration within the initiative is organised and supported by the Berlin-based coordination office, operated by TMF (Technology, Methods and Infrastructure for Networked Medical Research) with MFT (German Association of Medical Faculties), and VUD (German Association of Academic Medical Centers).