At AmCham Germany, the Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee (HLSC) is the platform for all member companies involved in the healthcare sector, such as pharmaceutical research companies, medical technology and diagnostics as well as IT firms and the consumer health sector. The committee addresses current healthcare policies and topics and engages in stakeholder discussions on the future of the German healthcare market.

The HLSC pursues the goal of making its voice heard and has established clear, constructive and open dialogues with all relevant policy- and decisionmakers on various levels. Regular policy committee meetings take place in Berlin as well as state-level discussions with representatives of the economic and healthcare ministries have reinforced AmCham Germany’s positions. All major developments such as the ongoing pharmaceutical dialogue and the implementation of the Medical Device Regulation are monitored closely and commented on in position papers and statements. Focusing on regulatory issues related to healthcare and pharmaceutical products, the committee seeks to promote a balanced regulatory market, a friendly investment climate, and research opportunities within Germany. Planning security and a sustainable regulatory framework must be guaranteed in order to ensure investment and innovation by the healthcare industry.

The healthcare industry is one of the most important drivers for the German economy. Not only does it have a considerable significance for Germany as a business location, the healthcare industry provides employment opportunities and promotes innovation and research.
Among other relevant topics for the committee, digitalization has been a key issue over the last years. It has tremendously transformed healthcare in the past decade. The committee agrees that one of the key aspects for a sustainable healthcare system is digitalization, but in order to exploit its full potential, many regulatory issues have to be solved. Regulations are not yet ensuring that market access and reimbursement for digital healthcare solutions are guaranteed. It is important to implement coherent policies that enable innovative digital healthcare solutions and make sure that companies are not leaving the German market because regulations are unclear or restrictive.

Federal Ministry for Health supports digitalization in the healthcare sector

In addition, the HLSC sees a need for increasing acceptance and trust for digital innovations especially in the area of healthcare in order for patients to benefit. The German government has made significant steps to boost its digitalization efforts by establishing a department for digitalization within the Federal Ministry for Health. Further measures, such as the establishment of the Health Innovation Hub are taken to ensure that healthcare and the digital industry are cooperating and working together to help fight and prevent diseases for the benefit of patients.