Leadership structures in German clinics are adjusting parallel to DRG (diagnose-related groups)-induced economic reorientation of the health care system. A Chief Medical Clinic Manager (CMCM) is a new job description and an innovative approach to combine medical competence and business economics at the operational level of care. The ideal qualification is a medical specialist in the clinical field with practical experience in patient care and leadership as well as in hospital economics and quality control. A CMCM is placed at a superior level in the clinic, with authorizing competence for the entire physician team. Main tasks are cost transparency within the clinic, organizational development by structured processes, and financial and strategic controlling of all business aspects. A CMCM induces change management and financial adjustment of care to reimbursement with maintaining the standard of care. In cooperation with the director of the clinic, a CMCM develops a vision for clinic development, an investment strategy, and a business plan. The success parameters are positive operative results of the clinic, cost-covering care, increased investment rate, employee satisfaction, and implementation of innovations in research and therapy. A CMCM thereby increases financial and organizational freedom of action at the clinic level in a non-profit public health care system.