AUSTRIA

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2016

Special topic: Pricing and reimbursement policies for biosimilars

DEVELOPMENTS

CHANGES IN PRICING

- **No changes**

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- **Annual adjustment of the prescription fee:** Prescription fee of 5.70 € in 2016
- **Increase in application fees:** Increase in application fees for the inclusion into the Reimbursement Code increased by 2.5% in 2016 compared to 2015.

OTHER CHANGES

- **Framework agreement:** The 3rd framework agreement was concluded comprising approx. a minimum of 200 million Euros of contributions to the health insurance funds in the period 2016-2018. The contributing volume of the first year (2016) is 125 mill. Euros. The first framework agreement was concluded in 2008 and was prolonged in mid-2011 until the end of 2015.
- **Discussion about improved interface management** between out-patient and in-patient sectors: Organisation of a procurement conference involvement relevant representatives from both sectors in January 2016

SPECIAL TOPIC

POLICIES FOR BIOSIMILARS

The price for biosimilars is set in the same procedure as for generics, i.e. price linkage between originals and follower products. The regulation does not refer to generics only, but to 'follower' products - these can be generics, biosimilars, or even originators.

1st follower: at least 48% priced below originator.
2nd follower: at least 15% priced below 1st follower and originator must lower its price at least 30% three months after inclusion of the 1st follower into the reimbursement code.
3rd follower: at least 10% priced below 2nd follower. After including the 3rd follower into the reimbursement code all other products must reach price level of the 3rd follower within three months.

No large tenders for biologicals/biosimilars are known to be performed in Austria.

The reimbursement procedure is the same as for all other medicines. A pharmaceutical company applies for inclusion of its medicine, and the Main Association of Social Security Institutions (MASSI) takes a decision based on a pharmacological, medical-therapeutic and health-economic evaluation.

In Austria, no reference price system is in place.

In Austria, substitution of generics and biosimilars is not allowed.