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Recent changes in pharmaceutical policy measures and developments in pharmaceutical expenditure

<p style="text-align: center;">Major changes in pharmaceutical policy in 2012-2013</p> <p>Pricing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual increase of out-of pocket payments (fixed prescription fee) for patients: 2012: 5.15 Euro per prescription 2013: 5.3 Euro per prescription • Margin changes: Amendment of the legal act "Arzneitaxe" which regulates the remuneration of pharmacists, especially regarding night fees and fees for compounded preparations, ie: increase of the narcotic fee from 50 Cent to 55 Cent; special fee for dispensing opiates and benzodiazepines for substitution <p>Reimbursement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of the so-called "Pharma Framework Contract" pharmaceutical companies and wholesalers paid about 180 Mio. Euro (incl. VAT) between 2008 and mid 2011 back to the Austrian sickness funds. The contract was prolonged until 31/12/2015 to deliver another contribution of 82 Mio. Euro (incl. VAT). • In the years 2008 to 2011 pharmacies paid a yearly contribution of 7.08 Mio. Euro back to the Austrian sickness funds (reaching a sum of 21.2 Mio. Euro in 3 years). For another 4 years (2012-2015) the yearly contribution by public pharmacies was fixed at 6 Mio. Euro. Analogue goes policy for dispensing doctors (~2,8 Mio Euro). • After piloting eMedication (doctors, pharmacists and hospitals have access to (online) information on all provided medicines to patients) in 3 regions, the legal basis was established to implement eMedication on national basis in Austria. <p style="text-align: center;">Outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the health system reform 2012, a national "pharmaceutical commission" for the in- and out-patient sector will be implemented. This commission will deal on request with questions on the usage and coverage of mainly high-cost and specialised medicines. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Development of pharmaceutical expenditure in the last 5 available years</p> <p><u>Out-patient sector</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Austria - out-patient pharmaceutical expenditure per capita in Euro</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Expenditure per capita (Euro)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>432</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>457</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>436</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>438</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>439</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data definition and source: OECD Health Database, Prescribed medicines and Over-the-counter medicines dispensed to out-patients (positions HC.5.1.1 and HC.5.1.2 according to SHA data collection)</p> <p><u>In-patient sector and total market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No data available 	Year	Expenditure per capita (Euro)	2007	432	2008	457	2009	436	2010	438	2011	439
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<p style="text-align: center;">Impact of measures and evaluation</p> <p>According to studies, developments in pharmaceutical expenditure can be attributed to: volume component, structure component (e.g. marketing authorisation of new expensive medicines) and mixed component. In Austria the increasing number of prescriptions (partly inexplicable for some ATC groups) requires further investigation/concentration regarding the rational use of medicines. (Source: Health System Watch, Autumn 2010)</p>													