



BULGARIA

International Healthcare and Health Insurance Institute BG

Pharmaceutical provision in hospitals

- The **hospitals are founded by**: the state; the municipalities and by other legal or physical entities. They have a legal status of limited liability or joint stock companies.
- They are with **equal status regardless of their ownership**, which means that after contracting hospitals have the right to receive public financing from the national health insurance fund (NHIF).
- The **pharmaceutical provision** is organised **through hospital pharmacies**. Their number is much smaller than the number of hospitals. As it is prohibited to sell medicines, the **hospital pharmacies have the right to provide medicines only for their needs and not for out-patients** (exception are few, dispensing medicines, provided by MoH). Hospitals, without own pharmacy has the opportunity to receive medicines from the closest licensed hospital pharmacy.

Purchasing of medicines in the hospital sector

- **Any licensed wholesaler** is allowed to deliver medicines to hospitals. The pharmaceutical manufacturers can also sell medicines to hospitals; however only those which they produce.
- **The hospital price** is the ex-factory price with the mark-ups for the wholesaler and incl. VAT. The standard VAT in Bulgaria is 20%.
- **Public hospitals** are only allowed to purchase medicines if they are included in the positive list.
- **The main pricing policy** in public hospitals is public procurement and negotiation policy in the private hospitals.
- There are **no mandatory discounts** to hospitals.
- **The HPF is created** by a hospital pharmaceutical and therapeutic committee and approved by the director of the hospital. **The number of pharmaceuticals included in the HPF** depends on the budget of the hospital, the type of the hospital and the dominating morbidity of the population.

Financing of medicines in the hospital sector

- **The value of the pharmaceuticals**, used in hospitals is part of the clinical pathway. Some medicines, for treating specific diseases - oncologic, HIV, after transplantation of organs, haemophilia, etc. are paid from the state budget through the MoH.
- **Insured patients** do not have to pay additionally for medicines. This rule is sometimes violated.
- **Patients without obligatory health insurance status** are charged by the hospitals for their treatment according to so called market prices
- Each hospital in Bulgaria has the right **to create its own medicine policy**, respectively its own list of preferred medicines or a hospital pharmaceutical formulary.
- **Public hospitals** are only allowed to purchase medicines which are included in the positive drug list.

Evaluation and Interface management

- So far **the evaluation of pharmaceutical policies** and **consumption** in Bulgarian hospitals has not been regularly monitored.
- Despite the increasing expenditure for hospitalisation and pharmaceuticals, the quality of the provided services has not much improved. In this context and in the **context of the forthcoming reform** in the inpatient sector, better interface management in general and concerning medicines is urgently needed.