

SPAIN

Rational use of medicines in the in- and out-patient sector

Educational strategies:

- Therapeutic bulletins of the Regions with drug information
 - TV spots about generics
- Guidelines of prescription about high impact medicines made by Spanish Medicines Agency joint to experts

Managerial strategies:

- Information systems for prescriber in each Region to support prescription:
 - Vademecum on-line
 - Guidelines of treatment
 - Data bases of clinical trials in each Region
- The last delisting, dated in August, include 417 medicines with exceptions for to severe pathologies

Economic strategies:

- Prescription monitoring carried out in Regions
- The prescriber has to prescribe the medicine with cheapest price when there are several medicines with the same active substance, same strength and package size. These medicines constitute an "HOMOGENEOUS GROUP"

Regulatory strategies:

- PRESCRIPTION:
 - acute illness: by active substance
 - chronic illness: the first prescription should be by active substance. The next prescriptions could be by trade name if this medicine is the cheapest
 - SUBSTITUTION by PHARMACIST:
 - when the prescribed medicine is not available, the pharmacist can substitute by the cheapest medicine
 - The pharmaceutical promotional activities are controlled by Regions

Evaluations of the measures:

- The generic prescription is growing:

In 2011 the rate of generics out of total consumption of the SNS:

- 39% per volume
- 14% per value