

Analysis of medicine prices in New Zealand and 16 European countries

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Objective

To compare medicine prices of New Zealand and 16 European countries.

Methods

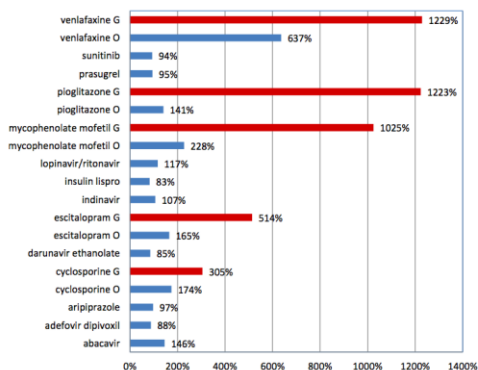
Countries: New Zealand (NZ) and 16 European countries: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Finland (FI), France (FR), Italy (IT), Ireland (IE), the Netherlands (NL), Norway (NO), Portugal (PT), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), Switzerland (CH) and United Kingdom (UK).

Medicines: 14 medicines, 5 of them available as both originator and generic → a total of 19 presentations. High coverage: price data in at least 14 out of the 17 countries (related to originators).

Data sources and time-period: European price data provided from the Pharma Price Information (PPI) service of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG/Austrian Health Institute), June 2012 data; NZ data from the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule, August 2012.

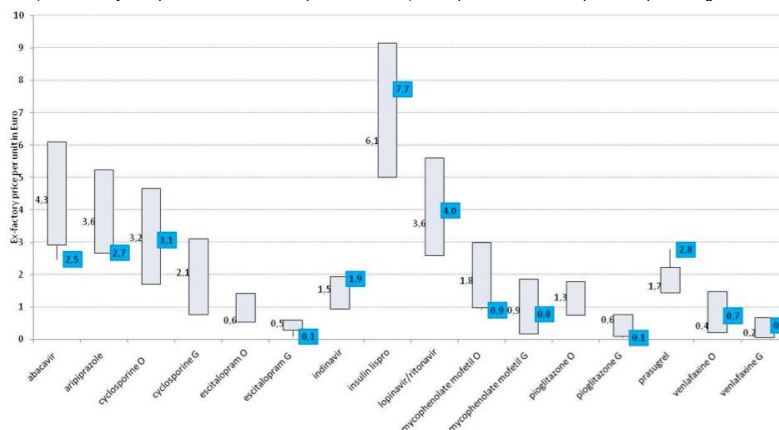
Methodology: Comparison of identical or comparable presentations, i.e. same pharmaceutical form, same dosage, and same or closest pack size. Comparison of ex-factory prices (official list prices, without discounts and rebates) per unit. Conversion of non-Euro national currencies into Euro based on monthly average exchange rate as of May 2012 provided by ECB.

Price differences between highest and lowest priced medicine, in per cent based on the lowest priced medicine



- For most selected medicines, the price of the product in the highest-priced country was at least twice the price in the lowest-priced country
- For few medicines cross-country price differences varied up to 1000%

European versus New Zealand prices. NZ prices (in blue, right to the bar) compared to the price range (min. and max. value) and median value of the European prices (European median left to the bar). Ex-factory unit prices in Euro for 16 presentations (11 on-patent medicines plus comparable generic version to 5 on-patent medicines).



Conclusion

Medicine prices varied considerably between European countries and New Zealand as well as among the European countries.

Results

Medicine prices ranked per quartile. Frequency of country-specific medicine price data ranking in quartiles, including its rank as lowest (min.) or highest (max.). Data in brackets refer to on-patent medicines only.

Country	1 st quartile		2 nd quartile	3 rd quartile	4 th quartile	
	1 st quartile incl. min.	min.			4 th quartile incl. max.	max.
AT	2 (1)	1 (1)	7 (5)	7 (7)	1 (1)	0 (0)
BE	5 (5)	0 (0)	7 (5)	4 (3)	1 (1)	0 (0)
CH	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	15 (13)	8 (8)
DE	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (2)	13 (11)	4 (4)
DK	3 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (3)	9 (8)	1 (0)
EL	13 (12)	2 (2)	2 (1)	3 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
ES	8 (8)	0 (0)	6 (5)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
FI	5 (2)	0 (0)	4 (4)	6 (6)	3 (2)	0 (0)
FR	3 (3)	2 (2)	6 (6)	6 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
IE	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)	5 (5)	6 (4)	2 (1)
IT	5 (5)	0 (0)	6 (5)	4 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
NL	7 (4)	1 (0)	6 (6)	5 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
NO	2 (2)	0 (0)	7 (6)	5 (4)	3 (2)	1 (0)
NZ	5 (3)	4 (2)	3 (2)	1 (1)	7 (6)	1 (1)
PT	10 (8)	4 (3)	4 (3)	3 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
SE	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (5)	9 (7)	1 (0)
UK	8 (6)	5 (4)	5 (4)	4 (3)	1 (1)	0 (0)

- EL and PT, and, to a lesser extent, ES, UK and NL frequently ranked at the lower end
- CH and DE, but also DK and SE ranked at the higher end
- NZ results showed high variability

European versus New Zealand prices. NZ prices compared to the price range (min. & max. value), median + average value of the European prices

Medicines	16 European countries				New Zealand	
	min.	median	average	max.	NZ price	Rank*
abacavir	2,92	4,33	4,37	6,10	2,48	1
adefovir dipivoxil	10,74	15,98	15,40	20,20	14,04	7
aripiprazole	2,66	3,65	3,74	5,25	2,68	3
cyclosporine O	1,70	3,15	3,09	4,66	3,08	12
cyclosporine G	0,76	2,07	2,04	3,10	-	-
darunavir ethanolate	8,08	10,89	10,89	14,99	12,88	16
ethanolate	0,53	0,60	0,70	1,41	-	-
escitalopram O	0,28	0,50	0,47	0,60	0,10	1
escitalopram G	0,94	1,55	1,47	1,93	1,88	15
indinavir	5,01	6,15	6,43	9,16	7,73	14
insulin lispro	2,58	3,59	3,78	5,61	3,98	12
lopinavir/ritonavir	0,97	1,82	1,87	2,98	0,91	1
mycophenolate mofetil O	0,16	0,91	0,90	1,85	0,78	6
mycophenolate mofetil G	0,74	1,30	1,27	1,78	-	-
pioglitazone O	0,08	0,61	0,55	0,77	0,06	1
prasugrel	1,43	1,65	1,74	2,22	2,78	17
sunitinib	30,43	42,94	42,64	59,01	53,73	18
venlafaxine O	0,20	0,42	0,54	1,48	0,73	13
venlafaxine G	0,05	0,22	0,25	0,67	0,44	15

O = originator medicine, G = generic version; if no O or G are indicated, only the originator version is available, max. = maximum, min. = minimum, NZ = New Zealand

* = Rank of the New Zealand price among the 17 countries of the survey (1 = lowest price, 17 = highest price)

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