



FINLAND

Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board (Lauri Pelkonen)¹,
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Ulla Närhi)²

Major reforms from 2009 till now

- Generic reference price system (4/2009)
- Pharmaceuticals covered by analogous process patent return substitutable (4/2009)
- New unit was established in the Finnish Medicines Agency to build capacity in HTA expertise (11/2009)
- Electronic prescriptions (5/2010)
- Limited prescribing right for nurses, opticians and self-employed dental hygienists (7/2010)
- Health Care Act (5/2011)

Current and planned measures

- Government's programme 2011-2015:
 - pharmaceutical cost savings €113 million
 - reform of reimbursement system (co-payments and scope of reimbursement system)
- Medicines Policy 2020:
 - medicines policy objectives for the coming decade have been created in co-operation with stakeholders

Current pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement system (as of 9/2011)

Pricing

Outpatient care:

- Statutory pricing for reimbursable pharmaceuticals at wholesale price level; internal and external price referencing for reimbursable pharmaceuticals, health economic evaluation (a new active medicinal substance)
- Reimbursement status and wholesale price granted max. for 5 years (new active substance max. for 3 years)
- No wholesale mark up scheme
- Degressive pharmacy mark up scheme for all pharmaceuticals
- VAT rate of 9% on pharmaceuticals (8% until 30th June 2010)

Inpatient care:

- Price negotiations or tendering of pharmaceuticals

Reimbursement

- Positive list in place
- Reimbursement categories:
 - Basic reimbursement 42%
 - Lower special reimbursement 72%
 - Higher special reimbursement 100%
 - + Additional reimbursement after reaching the annual limit to co-payments (€675 per year in 2011)
- Co-payments depending on reimbursement category (58% / 28% / €3 per medicine / €1,50 per medicine)
- Generic substitution and reference price system in place
- Pharmaceutical formulary per hospital
- Medicines administered during inpatient care covered by hospital daily fees

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