# FRANCE

## Recent changes in pharmaceutical policy measures and developments in pharmaceutical expenditure

**Major changes in pharmaceutical policy in 2012-2013**

Pricing

- **Price cuts' policy was strengthened in 2012.**
  As usual it occured all along the year but was mainly concentrated at the beginning (march).
  Amount : nearly 1 €Bn
  Mainly affected therapeutic classes : statins, proton pump inhibitor (PPI), renin-angiotensin system (RAS), alzheimer…

- **Margin changes :**
  Change in wholesale margin, applicable 1st of January 2012 : if ex-factory price lower than 450€ = maximun of (6,68% and 0,3€), 0€ over 450€

  Change of pharmacist margins for 3-month packs = [90% (PFHT of monthly pack x 3)]. Decided in May 2012, applicable 1st of July.

  In April 2012 : New agreement with pharmacists, including P4P remuneration on generic substitution improvement and quality of generic dispensing to the elderly (no impact on price of medicines).

- **Change in VAT**
  Increase in the VAT rate from 5.5 to 7% for non-reimbursable drugs came into force on 1st of January 2012

Reimbursement

- **Several delistings occurred in 2012 :**
  - March: VASODILATORS and insufficient SMRs including Multaq®, Vastarel®
  - May: Percutalgine®, Glucovance®
  - Septembre : Derinox®
  - 3rd generation contraceptive were delisted in January 2013, 9 months before the planned date

Other changes

- June 2012 : Extension of policy with pharmacists « Tiers-payant contre génériques » (TPcG, "Commission paritaire nationale" 6 june 2012) : nationwide and all insured

***Outlook***

*Further price cuts (Low weight molecular heparins, Hepatitis-HIV, Paracetamols in association, calciums, generics – European convergence –, proton pomp inhibitor…) and delistings (slow action anti-arthrosis) scheduled for 2013.*

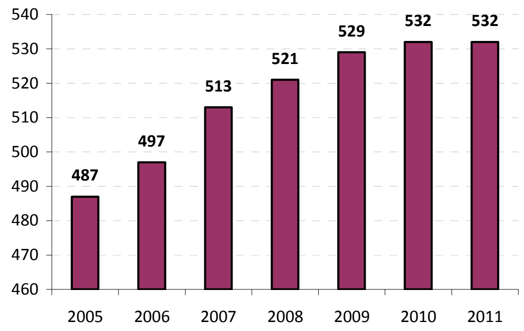
*On-going discussions regarding pharmacists' margins.*

**Development of pharmaceutical expenditure in the last 5 available years**

Out-patient sector

*Please use the same data definitions as indicated in the Glossary: http://whocc.goeg.at → Glossary*

**Pharmaceutical expenditure per capita in euro**




Source: PQE 2nd indicator part I - from DREES Health accounts

In-patient sector

*n.a*

Total market

n.a

**Impact of measures and evaluation**

Generics' share among the "répertoire" increased by nearly 12 percentage points from may to december 2012.

Price cuts and generics' growth helped to restrain health insurance's pharmaceutical expenditure in 2012, although several expensive drugs entered the market (Victrelis®, Incivo®, Pradaxa®, Xarelto®, Zytiga®…). => Structure component was restrained thanks to price and generics components.

Although OTC sales were dynamic last year, the global market decreased.

So far no study showing a restriction in access to medicines. Available studies on renouncement to health care show that it usually concerns dental care and optical care.