

NORWAY

Recent and planned changes in pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement and overview of the medical devices system

P H A R M A C E U T I C A L S	<p>Changes in pricing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the pharmacy mark-up and the reference price system for generics were implemented the 1st of January 2014: Pharmacy mark-up - Increase of the fixed mark-up per package and the maximum mark-up in % of pharmacy purchase price has been lowered. Generics – The stepped price system has been altered and prices have been lowered to become more in line with Denmark and Sweden. 	<p>Changes in reimbursement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1st of January 2014 the financial responsibility for three cancer drugs (Zelboraf, Zytiga and Xgeva) has been transferred from the National Insurance to the hospitals. In the future, new cancer drugs that are alternatives to drugs that are already funded by the hospitals, will also be funded by the hospitals. From 2006 the hospitals have also been responsible for the funding of TNF-inhibitors and MS drugs.
	<p>Other changes related to medicines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From January 2014 a new health technology assessment (HTA) system has been implemented. NOMA evaluates new drugs for use in specialist healthcare for hospital use. The system is intended to help prioritise the use of healthcare resources and guarantee that the decision-making process is equal across the healthcare system in Norway. A few HTAs are finished (Halaven, Herceptin, Jevtana, Perjeta and Xtandi), several are medicines are waiting to be assessed. 	
M E D I C E S	<p>Pricing and reimbursement system of medical devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate of Health, Competent Authority for medical devices in Norway, is responsible for the medical devices regulation as given in the EU/EEA directives for medical devices and implemented into national law. The legislation places obligations on manufacturers to ensure that devices are safe and fit for their intended purpose. There are two different kinds of reimbursement schemes, depending on the patient's condition and the use of the product: one for out-patient use and one for treatment under the responsibility of hospitals. The Health Economics Administration (HELFO - subordinate to the Directorate of Health) publishes lists of products and reimbursement prices for certain conditions eg. diapers when incontinent, catheters and stoma equipment. HELFO negotiates prices with the supplier and uses some reference pricing. Hospitals use mostly open tendering. HELFO: The patients must have a prescription from a GP and collects the products in a pharmacy. The patient will pay the same copayment as for reimbursed pharmaceuticals. http://www.helfo.no/helsepersonell/leverandorer/Sider/produkt--og-prisliste.aspx Hospitals supply products that are used as part of the patient's treatment, ie. home respirator, insulin pumps and compression stockings for certain conditions. The doctor will apply to the hospital for the needed medical device. The hospital will supply the patient with the product and all necessary products to use this product eg. syringes and bandages, free of charge. 	