The Italian Region Emilia-Romagna implements an evidence-based drug governance policy involving multi-stakeholder workgroups to promote equitable and sustainable access to drugs

Drug Governance in the Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy

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Background

• The Italian National Health Service provides assessment, pricing and reimbursement of medicines through the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA).
• However, each Italian Region can implement its own tailored drug governance policy within the national reimbursement regulation

Methods

1. In the region Emilia-Romagna (RER) evidence-based recommendations on the use of medicines are issued by multi-stakeholder workgroups (MSWG), informing the decisions of a Regional Drug and Therapeutic Committee (DTC) that monthly updates the Regional Drug Formulary (RDF)
2. Recommendations produced by means of the GRADE method are monitored through quantitative indicators expressing the expected prescription rates. Yearly reports are produced for conditions with high impact on resources
3. Drugs are purchased through centralized procurement procedures by a public independent regional agency.
4. Cost-opportunity evaluations to foster competition among pharmaceutical companies are part of RER’s drug governance policy

Results

• 1,242 drugs included in the Regional Drug Formulary
• 255 documents on drugs issued by the DTC since 2006
• 79 with evidence-based recommendations and quantitative expected prescription rates
• 62 produced with the GRADE methodology
• 12 active workgroups

Discussion

• RER implements a drug governance policy based on evidence-informed, structured, explicit and flexible guidance process involving MSWGs
• Differences between observed and expected prescription rates help understanding the determinants of variability among prescribers and can inform decisions about resource allocation.
• Appropriate use of drugs is key for the sustainability of a reimbursement-based system, warranting equitable access to treatments

A full list of guidance documents (in Italian) is available at: http://ausr1.regione.emilia-romagna.it/documentazione/NE/ree-guida-raccomandazioni-ptr