

## AUSTRIA

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

<b>P H A R M A C E U T I C A L S</b>	<b>Changes in pricing</b>	<b>Changes in reimbursement</b>
	There are no changes.	<p><u>Change in appeal institution:</u> The Independent Pharmaceutical Commission (Unabhängige Heilmittelkommission, UHK), which acted as appeal authority for manufacturers in case of a negative decision about the inclusion in reimbursement, ended its activities at end of 2013. Its activities were taken over by Federal Administrative Courts from 2014 on.</p>
<b>Other changes</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Establishment of Medicines Commission:</u> A new Commission, with the aim to improve interface management, was established in early 2014. The Medicines Commission is to develop joint provision models for the inpatient and outpatient sector for high priced and specialized pharmaceuticals. It is charged with establishing the eventual 'best point of service' reflecting medical-therapeutical, health economic and health care considerations.</li> <li>• <u>Increase in application fees:</u> Application fees for inclusion into the Code of Reimbursement have been increased for the first time in five years. A rise of 5.0% for applications has been negotiated with industry representatives for the current year. The next year and the following will see the fees rise again by 2.5% each which ultimately leads to a comprehensive increase of 10.0% over 3 years.</li> </ul>		
<b>M E D I C A L D E V I C E S</b>	<b>Pricing and reimbursement system of medical devices</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Competent authority:</u> Overall competence lies with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health; classification and clinical trials are with the Medicines Agency. The Austrian Health Institute GÖG supports the Ministry of Health related to the registration of medical devices by running the platform (website) for registration.</li> <li>• <u>Price regulation:</u> Pricing of medical devices are statutorily not regulated and can be freely set by the manufacturers.</li> <li>• <u>Reimbursement:</u> Manufacturers or distributors require an arrangement with a sickness funds in order to have a medical device reimbursed. <i>Note:</i> In Austria, there are many different sickness funds due to its federal system, thus if a manufacturer aims to have it reimbursed, he has to inquire at every sickness fund. It is up to the manufacturers/distributors whether they ask for reimbursement or not.</li> <li>• <u>Price sources/prices known:</u> There is no overview of prices of medical devices in Austria.</li> </ul>	