

## BULGARIA

### Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2017 Special topic: hospital medicines

#### CHANGES IN PRICING

Please indicate recent and planned changes related to:

- price changes (e.g. price cuts, price freezes, other price reductions)
- price reviews
- distribution remuneration changes (wholesale, pharmacy)
- discounts / rebates (out-patient, in-patient), managed-entry agreements, clawback/paybacks
- change in VAT on medicines
- other changes in pricing policies (e.g. change of reference countries in EPR)

**No changes in pricing**

#### CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

Please indicate recent and planned changes related to:

- changes/modifications of reimbursement lists
- changes/modifications of reimbursement rates
- changes/modifications of co-payment
- changes/modifications in the reference price system (methodology)
- reimbursement reviews
- other changes/modifications of the reimbursement system

**No changes in reimbursement**

#### OTHERS CHANGES

Please indicate recent and planned changes (please also indicate the status of implementation and dates) related to:

- e.g. changes in generic policies (i.e. introduction, change from indicative to mandatory generic substitution and INN prescribing)
- e.g. volume control, prescription monitoring, prescription budgets, measures to improve prescribing performance
- e.g. measures to improve medicines management at the interface of out-patient and in-patient sectors
- e.g. educational and information activities
- e.g. IT projects

#### SPECIAL TOPIC: HOSPITAL MEDICINES

Please describe briefly how hospital medicines are organised in your country related to the following issues:

- **Describe the main purchasing policies (tendering, negotiations, etc.) used in the in-patient sector?** Hospitals purchase medicinal products through tendering procedures. For oncology medicines, negotiation of price is also applied between the paying institution and the relevant MAH.
- **Do hospitals carry out their own procurement or is there joint procurement for a group of hospitals?** Hospitals participate independently in tender procedures. At the end of October, the Ministry of Health launched an electronic platform for concluding framework agreements for the centralized purchase of medicines for the needs of hospitals. The procedure will include only oncology medicinal products.
- **Are hospital prices (list prices, procured prices, negotiated prices) available to the public?** In Bulgaria, the Positive Drug List has a separate Annex 2, which includes all medicinal products that are paid by hospitals. The calculated packing value, based on a reference value for a defined Daily Dose in the list, can not be exceeded when purchasing medicinal products. Real delivery prices are not public.
- **How are hospital medicines financed/reimbursed?** The oncology medicines and medicinal products included in the clinical pathways are paid by NHIF and the rest are paid by the hospitals.
- **Are there Health Technology Assessments (HTA) performed in the in-patient sector in your country?** Yes. The assessment of health technology is for all new molecules, whether they will be paid by the NHIF, the hospitals or the Ministry of Health.
- **Please describe the relevance of the interface management (linkage between in-patient and out-patient sector). How is interface management of pharmacotherapy organised?** The doctors in medical establishments prescribe a treatment, and then the assigned therapy is prescribed by GPs or specialists in the outpatient sector. Outpatient and hospital products are divided into separate applications in the Positive Drug List - Annex 1 and Annex 2. In Annex 1, medicinal products are paid by the NHIF and have a different level of reimbursement. In Annex 2, all medicines have a 100% reimbursement level and are paid by hospitals or NHIF for cancer products.
- **Main challenges in 2017 regarding hospital medicines in your country?** Launching a general electronic auction between hospitals to buy oncology medicines.
- **Additionally, please state the pharmaceutical expenditure in the in-patient sector of recent years.** The costs of oncology medicines paid by the NHIF in 2016 - 292 million BGN.