

Latvia

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2017

Special topic: hospital medicines

CHANGES IN PRICING

No changes

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- 01/04/2017: different approach to clustering of medicines with the same therapeutic efficacy in order to calculate the reference price (the medicines of the same presentation form and dosage regardless of the pack size are grouped in one cluster; before that medicines of different pack sizes were clustered separately)

OTHERS CHANGES

No changes

SPECIAL TOPIC: HOSPITAL MEDICINES

- Hospital pharmaceuticals are purchased according to the Public Procurement Law. Procurement is the sole pricing policy for pharmaceuticals and medical devices used in hospitals. Procurement is mainly organised by using open tendering procedures.
- Centralised procurement is organised by the NHS for the purchase of the following pharmaceuticals and medical devices: (1) for peritoneal dialysis, (2) vaccines, standard tuberculin and syringes and (3) the treatment of phenylketonuria and other genetically- determined diseases. Health care institutions themselves organise the procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical devices that are not purchased centrally.
- Medical treatment institutions do not publish information on prices of pharmaceuticals purchased.
- Expenses for medicines are included in the payment rates for health care services. The expenses of certain high-cost pharmaceuticals are paid separately.
- There is basic hospital pharmaceutical formulary (HPF) used in all hospitals financed from the State budget. HTA is performed for new medicines before inclusion into basic HPF.
- A general practitioner ensures the interface between pharmaceuticals used by his/her patients both in the outpatient and the inpatient sectors. Hospitals provide treatment recommendations for primary care.