

ESTONIA

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2017/2018

Special topic: patient involvement in pricing and reimbursement of medicines

CHANGES IN PRICING

No changes

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

Starting from 2018:

- the payment procedure of patient additional reimbursement scheme was changed (from payback towards the direct decrease in OOP at the point of sale)
- Changes in the patient additional reimbursement scheme in favour of patient (in the yearly OOP above EUR 100, 50% of costs will be deducted and in the yearly OOP above EUR 300, 90% of costs will be deducted at the point of sale)
- Justification of prescription fee: EUR 2.50 per all reimbursement rates

OTHER CHANGES

Starting from 2018:

- Decision-making on the pricing and reimbursement issues of reimbursed pharmaceuticals has been moved to Health Insurance Fund (with staff concerned together)

SPECIAL TOPIC: Patient Involvement in Pricing and Reimbursement of Medicines

Pricing and reimbursement procedures of medicines

- The patients/citizens have the opportunity to express their opinion during pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement procedures in Estonia:
 - Two umbrella organizations of patients are involved regularly in Drug Committee, advising Member of the Board of EHIF in deciding of pricing and reimbursement issues of pharmaceuticals, meetings on monthly basis in usual;
 - Single patients/other patient organizations have the possibility of personal meetings, feedback, formal statements, if necessary, case-by-case;
 - The patient can impact the pricing and reimbursement issues through the Drug Committee usually, their other activities have rather informative effect;
 - Regular involvement in Drug Committee requires the signing of Conflict of Interest declaration. The representatives of umbrella organizations of patients are mostly silent members of Drug Committee; from time to time the voice of single patients/patient organizations can be heard in a more loud mode (direct contacts, press etc). The ways of action, chosen by single patients/patient organizations, do not enable the constructive solution of their problems, usually;
 - The patient organizations are asked for regular feedback during the process of inclusion of new pharmaceutical/medicinal service into the list of medicinal services of EHIF.
- Patients have their formal opportunity for participation in review/appeal processes.

Related to HTA procedures

- No patient involvement in overall (the HTA is applied retrospectively in Estonia yet).