ESTONIA

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2018

Special topic: national incentives and derogatory procedures for orphan medicines
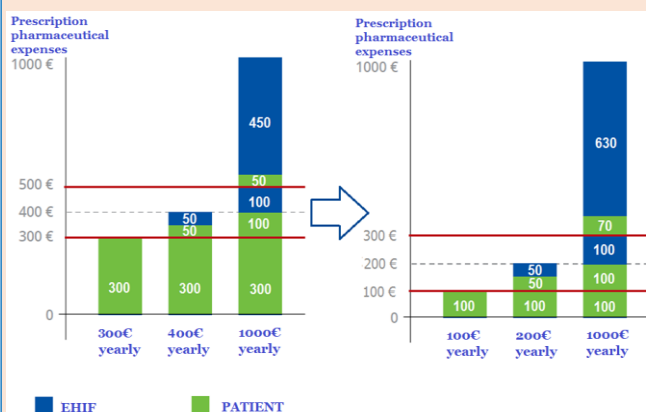
CHANGES IN PRICING	CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT (from 2018)

No changes

Changes in the supplementary benefit for prescription pharmaceuticals:
- **lower threshold;**
- **change in calculation of the base amount;**
- **direct decrease in OOP automatically at the point of sale.**

The Drug Committee also advises the Management Board of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF) in deciding pricing and reimbursement issues of inpatient medicines.

Prescription fee 2,5 EUR

OTHER CHANGES

Ministry of Social Affairs → EHIF
- **Making decisions on pricing and reimbursement of outpatient pharmaceuticals (from 2018).**
- **Procurement of vaccines, antidotes and medicines for HIV and tuberculosis (from 2019).**

Electronic information about patient`s medicines – an overview of patient`s prescription medicines (prescribed, bought), seen by the patient, pharmacist and physician (from 2019).

Cross-border digital prescription: possibility to buy in Estonia medicines that have been prescribed in other European countries (Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Croatia), technical developments in progress (from 2019).

SPECIAL TOPIC: National Incentives and Derogatory Procedures for Orphan Medicines

There are no specific incentives to bring orphan medicines to the market. There are no special national funds to reimburse orphan medicines nor special reimbursement schemes/higher reimbursement rates for orphan medicines.	If the number of patients is very low and there are no treatment alternatives for these patients, EHIF has sometimes accepted higher cost per QALY than ordinary (3-fold GDP/per capita). Annual treatment with an orphan medicine should not cost more than with other similar medicines reimbursed by EHIF.	The appendices for reimbursement application of orphan medicines may be in English (for other medicines in Estonian) and the pharmaco-economic analysis is not required to correspond to Estonia's circumstances.	Compassionate-use programmes are possible, but EHIF does not overtake the reimbursement for patients from compassionate use programmes.	There is no specific centre of expertise, but treatment with orphan medicines takes place in tertiary or secondary hospitals/is coordinated by them.