









PORTUGAL

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2016 Special topic: Out-of pocket payments

CHANGES IN PRICING

- Pricing System for non-reimbursed and non-reimbursable prescription medicines (06/2016) –
 Possibility of increasing the price up to 10% per year, up to a maximum of 2,50€
- Excessive price re-evaluation (07/2016) Price reductions for medicines 20% more expensive than equal medicines from other marketing authorisation holders
- Price re-evaluation of HIV medicines (ongoing) Price comparison between fixed-dose combination medicines and medicines containing the isolated active substances

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- Pregabalin Reimbursement rate depends on the therapeutic indication of the prescription
- Reimbursement re-evaluation of Glucosaminecontaining medicines – Lack of effectiveness
- Changes to the reference price system Reference price is the average of the 5 lowest prices of the cluster, but cannot exceed the price of the most expensive generic – not implemented yet

OTHER CHANGES

- Agreement with the Pharmaceutical Industry (01/2016)
- Therapeutic recommendation for the use of biossimilars in naïve patients (02/2016)
- Publication of therapeutic recommendations e.g. Statins, Liraglutide (04/2016)
- Implemented a New Health Technology Assessment Committee (05/2016)
- Biossimilar market promotion e.g. conferences with health professionals (06/2016)
- Hospitalar Benchmarking Publication of relevant information targeted to hospitals, allowing for comparison between them (09/2016)
- Dispensing fee pharmacies' fee for the dispensing of the cheapest reimbursed medicines included in homogeneous groups (01/2017)

OUT-OF POCKET PAYMENTS

Outpatient:

Pharmaceuticals: For all reimbursed medicines, a percentage co-payment is due by the patient, except for patients that benefit from special reimbursement conditions (defined pathologies) and also for essential life-saving medicines (insulins and immunomodulators), 100% reimbursed. Patients are required a co-payment on the price of Prescription-Only Medicines (0%, 10%, 31%, 63% and 85%), depending on the reimbursement level, pre-defined according to therapeutic classification.

For vulnerable groups (pensioners with low income) the co-payment level is lower (0%; 5%; 16%, 48% and 70%). For medicines included in the Reference Pricing System, the reimbursement rate is applied to reference price.

Primary care: Patients have to pay a user-charge for services provided in primary care. However, there are several groups of the population exempt from user-charges (Low income pensioners, children under 12 years old, patients with chronic diseases, pregnant women, among others).

Inpatient:

Patients do not have to provide any payment for medicines they receive during their inpatient stay.

Portuguese hospitals are also remunerated by own revenues via out-of-pocket payments charged to patients for admission charges.

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