

PORTUGAL

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2016

Special topic: Out-of pocket payments

D E V E L O P M E N T S	CHANGES IN PRICING	CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregabalin – Reimbursement rate depends on the therapeutic indication of the prescription • Reimbursement re-evaluation of Glucosamine-containing 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 – <i>not implemented yet</i>
	OTHER CHANGES	
S P E C I A L T O P I C	OUT-OF POCKET PAYMENTS	
	<p>Outpatient: <i>Pharmaceuticals:</i> 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.</p> <p><i>Primary care:</i> 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).</p> <p>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.</p>	