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# News 2016

## Pharmacoconomics

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### ABOUT

#### Pharmacoconomics Department of GÖG

The Pharmacoconomics Department of the Austrian Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, GÖG) has long-term experience in providing research, policy advice and capacity building in pharmaceutical policies (pricing, reimbursement, distribution, rational use of medicines) and medicine prices at national, European and international level. In 2010 it was designated a WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies.

Further information (e.g. list of publications) can be found at: <http://whocc.goeg.at/>

### TRAINING

#### Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies 2016

From 29 August to 2 September 2016 the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies offered, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, a Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies in Vienna. 33 participants from public and not for profit institutions working in the field of pricing and reimbursement of medicines from 18 different countries attended.

Further information:  
<http://whocc.goeg.at/SummerSchool2016>

#### Save-the-Date

The second Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies will be held in Vienna from 28 August to 1 September 2017. Further information will be provided at: <http://whocc.goeg.at>.

### MEDICINE PRICES

#### Price comparisons

On average, Austrian ex-factory prices of 60 surveyed **high-cost medicines** were 6% above the average price in comparison to the other 27 EU Member States. This is one of the key findings of a recently published price analysis of the Pharmacoconomics Department.

Full study in German (incl. English executive summary):

[http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/BooksReports/GOeG\\_Preisstudie2015\\_Publikation%200-Fehler.pdf](http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/BooksReports/GOeG_Preisstudie2015_Publikation%200-Fehler.pdf)

English policy brief:

[http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/BooksReports/GOeG\\_Preisstudie2015\\_Kurzbericht\\_EN.%200-Fehler.pdf](http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/BooksReports/GOeG_Preisstudie2015_Kurzbericht_EN.%200-Fehler.pdf)

An earlier study of the Department on 30 high-cost medicines in European comparison (based on 2013 data) was published in the Expert Review of Pharmacoconomics & Outcomes Journal, see

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14737167.2016.1223543> (in print).

The Pharmacoconomics Department collaborated with the WHO on a **global price comparison for Hepatitis C medicines**. The study found that current prices of sofosbuvir and ledipasvir/sofosbuvir were variable and unaffordable globally:

Iyengar S, Tay-Teo K, Vogler S, Beyer P, Wiktor S, de Joncheere K, Hill S. *Prices, Costs, and Affordability of New Medicines for Hepatitis C in 30 Countries: An Economic Analysis*. PLoS Med 13:5, 2016. Accessible: [http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/Articles/Hepc\\_Artikel.pdf](http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/Articles/Hepc_Artikel.pdf)

## **Pharma Price Information Service**

European price data for the above-listed studies were provided by the Pharma Price Information (PPI) service. PPI offers, upon request, quick, reliable and independent information on medicine prices in 30 European countries (28 EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway). PPI surveys and analysis can be commissioned by any client.

For further information on PPI consult

<http://www.goeg.at/en/PPI>

## **INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS**

In June 2016, Austria joined the initiative of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg on pharmaceutical policy. The Pharmacoeconomics Department is involved to provide technical support to this '**Beneluxa**' initiative.

The Pharmacoeconomics Department serves as national contact point for the **European Database on Medical Devices (EUDAMED)** and manages the **Austrian Medical Devices Registry**. The development of the new European medical devices regulation is in the final phase und will be published probably at the beginning of the year 2017.

For further information on the Austrian Medical Devices Registry consult

<http://www.medizinproduktregister.at>

The Department is involved in the management of the **European Medicine Price database Euripid**. A large stakeholder meeting took place in Prague on 15 September 2016.

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies has been involved in the '**Strategic Procurement**' initiative of the **WHO Regional Office for Europe**. A Member States meeting took place in Copenhagen on 22–23 September 2016. For further information see the report: '*Challenges and opportunities in improving access to medicines through efficient public procurement in the WHO European Region*'.

Accessible at:

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/323598/Challenges-opportunities-improving-access-medicines-efficient-public-procurement.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/323598/Challenges-opportunities-improving-access-medicines-efficient-public-procurement.pdf?ua=1)

The Department collaborated with the **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies** on a review on 'Pharmaceutical regulation in 15 European countries'. See: [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/322444/HiT-pharmaceutical-regulation-15-European-countries.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/322444/HiT-pharmaceutical-regulation-15-European-countries.pdf?ua=1)

The Department has been running the **Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network** of competent authorities for pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement of 46, mainly European, countries. We have been monitoring policy interventions, including cost-containment measures, undertaken in this field. The findings about measures taken in European countries between 2010 and 2015 were recently published.

Vogler S, Zimmermann N, de Joncheere K. *Policy interventions related to medicines: Survey of measures taken in European countries during 2010–2015*. Health Policy; 120(12): 1363–1377.

[http://www.healthpolicyjnl.com/article/S0168-8510\(16\)30236-6/abstract](http://www.healthpolicyjnl.com/article/S0168-8510(16)30236-6/abstract)

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