



BELGIUM

National Institute on Health and Disability Insurance

Major reforms from 2007 till now

- Extension of the reference price system to post-patent molecules without generic alternatives (at the request of the Reimbursement Committee) - 01/2007
- Introduction of the shorter, administrative procedure for generics – 04/2007
- Reform reference price system: increased frequency (4x/year) & extra 2,5% decrease of reimbursement level 2 years after initial reference price system entry – 05/2009

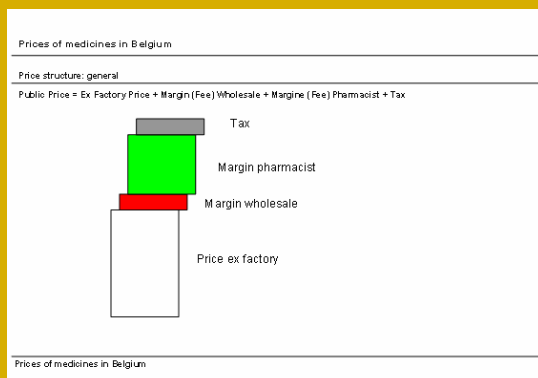
Current and planned measures

- New remuneration system for pharmacists (under implementation – should enter in force in 01/2010)
- Alternative ways of reimbursement (e.g. “contracts”)
- Doctors/pharmacists are encouraged to prescribe/deliver more so-called “cheap drugs” (implemented for doctors 01/2009 – pilot project for pharmacists autumn 2009)

Current pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement system (as of 2/2009)

Pricing

- **Price policies for pharmaceuticals**
price regulation for all pharmaceuticals (statutory pricing – maximum price fixing)
internal & external price referencing
- **Price structure**



- **VAT**
6% on pharmaceuticals

Reimbursement

- **Positive list**
5619 reimbursable pharmaceuticals (Medicinal Product Packing)
- **Reference Price System**
Introduced on 1st June 2001
- **Co-payment**
system of third party payment
→ percentage co-payment (with ‘ceiling’-fee) depending on reimbursement category

Maximum invoice (low income)

Mechanisms for vulnerable groups

preferential reimbursement status for Widows, Orphans, Retired persons and Disabled persons + low income