



# The Netherlands

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports

## Major reforms from 2007 till now

- Preference policy (health insurers may indicate preferred generic drugs) on 38 generic drugs – 7/2008
- Maximum dispensing fee increased to € 7,28 – 1/2009
- Benzodiazepines no longer reimbursed – 1/2009
- Expensive statines only reimbursed when prescribed according to guideline – 1/2009

## Current and planned measures

- It will increasingly be expected from the practitioner to prescribe according to guidelines that are drawn up by their own profession.
- The number of generics that are indicated on the preference list of health insurers is expected to increase in 2009

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

### Pricing

#### - Price policies for pharmaceuticals

Maximum price law for reimbursable product: external reference pricing (Belgium, France, Germany and UK)

OTC pharmaceuticals have no maximum price

#### - Wholesale mark ups

No public data.

#### - Pharmacy mark ups

Maximum dispensing fee € 7,28 per prescription

Claw back 6,82% of public list price with a maximum of €6,80 per prescription.

#### - VAT

6% on pharmaceuticals ( 19% standard rate)

### Reimbursement

- Approximately 46% of all pharmaceuticals on the market are fully reimbursed. 26% is not reimbursed and 28% is partly reimbursed.

- Most non-reimbursable drugs are OTC of which some are reimbursed for chronically-ill patients.

- Internal reference pricing since 1992.

- For cost-effective products with added therapeutic value, there is premium pricing.

#### - Co-payments

Negligible, less than 0,5% of total expenditure