



SLOVAKIA

Rational use of medicines in the in- and out-patient sector

Educational strategies:

- ⇒ Training for providers:
 - ⇒ Postgraduate workshops, seminars focusing on rational use of medicines e.g. O vs. G
 - ⇒ Continuing in-patient sector medical education on biosimilars
- ⇒ **“Drugs can save your money”** – the campaign to help people save their money by using of generics (web link, posters, radio, TV spots, FAQ)
- ⇒ **“Reform of drug policy”** – info about changes in drugs legislative for laic & experts too (web link, interviews in media & posters, FAQ)
- ⇒ eHealth – electronic health system – in process: (ePrescription, eMedication, National Health Portal, Citizen Health eBook, eAllocation)

Managerial strategies:

- ⇒ Information on the prescribing and reimbursement expenditure of medicinal products issued by state owned insurance company (VŠZP)
- ⇒ **Standard diagnostic and therapeutic procedures (MoH)**
- ⇒ Prescription guidelines – indications & prescriptions limitations for reimbursed drugs
- ⇒ Information systems, prescription software for physicians & pharmacists – monthly updates
- ⇒ **Reimbursement lists for out-patient and in-patient – monthly update**

Strategies to improve use of medicines

Economic strategies:

- ⇒ Controlling & monitoring of prescription guidelines performed by insurance companies (ICs)
- ⇒ Pharmaceutical budgets (services & pharmaceuticals) for physicians could be also controlled by ICs
- ⇒ **Present legislative strictly defined relations between pharmaceutical companies & HCPs**
- ⇒ To established general “positive list” of pharmaceuticals, which can be used in state hospitals (in process)

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controlling of financial resources for pharmaceuticals

Regulatory strategies:

- ⇒ Mandatory INN prescribing is promoting
- ⇒ Internal reimbursement referencing – **JUMBO CLUSTERS (58 clusters)**
- ⇒ External Reference Pricing
 - ⇒ present - 2nd lowest price
 - ⇒ new rule valid from 1JAN2013 – average of 3 lowest prices
- ⇒ Regulated pharmaceutical promotional activities - POM to the public is not allowed, OTC advertising is allowed in all media
- ⇒ Obligatory **25% co-payment** for ATBs
- ⇒ **Re-evaluations of all reimbursed drugs each quarter**

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savings of expenses for pharmaceuticals

Evaluations of the measures:

Decreasing of whole pharmaceutical market in units & value (1. half 2011 vs. 1. half 2012)

Units: - 6,7 %
Value: - 3,6 %

