

Austria

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2025

CHANGES IN PRICING

A joint price negotiation team consisting of representatives of the inpatient and outpatient sector was established; it negotiates the price of selected medicines with the pharmaceutical company as part of the appraisal process of the Austrian Federal Appraisal Board.

Generics and biosimilars

Medicines of the same active substance included in the green box of the outpatient pharmaceutical reimbursement list must be priced at the level of the cheapest alternative plus a maximum of 20% (the so-called price corridor for generics and biosimilars). This generic and biosimilar **price link** was renewed for two years at the end of 2023. The new coalition government, which was sworn in on 3 March 2025, has included the commitment to the price setting and price corridor for generics and biosimilars in its working programme for the current legislative period (2025-2029).

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

Federal Appraisal Board

The 2024 newly established Federal Appraisal Board appraises selected, specialised and high-priced medicines for the inpatient sector and at the interface of the inpatient and outpatient sector. It is the first time that recommendations for the use of medicines for the hospital sector are made at the national level.

Prescription fee

Increase of prescription fee: 7.55 Euro (increase from 7.10 Euro in 2024)

Supporting efficiencies in the medicines sector

The federal state will financially support cross-sectoral and cross-regional projects that seek to create efficiencies in the medicines sector, especially regarding high-priced medicines, thereby supporting the possibility of increased joint funding between the federal government and the regional states in pharmaceutical reimbursement.

OTHER CHANGES

1. A stockpiling regulation comes into effect on 21 April 2025. The regulation requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to stockpile a four-month supply of painkillers, antibiotics, cold medicines, and some products indicated for cardiovascular diseases or conditions of the lung.
2. After an initial roll-out to outpatient physicians in 2024, digital access to patients' electronic health insurance cards via the smartphone will be extended to pharmacies. Patients can grant access via a dedicated smartphone application.

SPECIAL TOPIC:

Current advances in HTA

(for EU Member States: Implications from EU-HTA Regulation)

Description of the HTA system in Austria

Fragmented healthcare system, HTAs only centralised for the outpatient sector, three decision-makers in HTA

Sector	Decision-maker (who commissions or conducts the HTA)	Basis of decisions/recommendations
Outpatient sector	Austrian Social Insurance	In-house evaluations based on pharmacological, medical-therapeutic and health economic assessments
Inpatient sector	Medicines committees in individual hospitals or hospital associations	Pharmacological, clinical and economic considerations
Medicines for the inpatient sector and at the interface between inpatient and outpatient sectors	The Federal Appraisal Board commissions HTAs. To date, the HTAs have been conducted by the Austrian Institute for Health Technology Assessment (AIHTA).	The medical-therapeutic added benefit of a new intervention as well as economic considerations in relation to the expected added benefit.

Implications of the EU-HTA Regulation

From January 2025, the above-listed decision-makers in the Austrian healthcare system will consider the European Joint Clinical Assessments (JCAs) in their evaluations. If a European JCA exists, the decision-makers will no longer conduct their own clinical evaluations but focus on other aspects not covered in the JCAs and specific to Austria, for example non-clinical aspects such as economic, organisational, ethical, social or legal specificities.