

PPRI Conference 2024

Access to new and expensive medicines in Austria: what role for the new “appraisal board”?

A workshop organised by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies, Pharmacoeconomic Department, GÖG (Austrian National Public Health Institute)

Workshop summary

Globally, health systems face challenges in balancing access to new and expensive medicines with ensuring financial sustainability. While Austria is an early-launch country, its fragmented health system can result in discrepancies in patient access to new medicines. In a major reform to the pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement system, the first nationwide standardised process for the assessment and appraisal of selected medicines used in the hospital sector and for selected medicines at the interface with the outpatient sector will be established in 2024.

In this workshop, speakers will describe the background for establishing a new process for evaluating selected pharmaceuticals in Austria and will provide an overview of how the process will work. In a panel discussion, stakeholder representatives will discuss the expected impact of the process on patient access to medicines. Workshop participants will also hear about experiences from other countries, and will have an opportunity to share their own perspectives on how to ensure access to new and expensive medicines.

Date and time

Friday, 26 April 2024: 13:30–15:00

Format

Workshop with presentation, panel discussions, invited commentary, and plenary Q&A.

The workshop language is English.

Workshop aims

- » Present the Austrian pharmaceutical system and challenges to an international audience
- » Provide international participants with an overview of how patients access new medicines in Austria currently and what role the new “appraisal board” for selected medicines will play
- » Provide a public forum for Austrian stakeholders to exchange their views and expectations on the new “appraisal board” in Austria against the global backdrop of challenges with access to new and expensive medicines
- » Provide Austrian participants with an opportunity to learn from experiences in other countries

Session outline

- » Presentation of the Austrian pharmaceutical system (Sabine Vogler, GÖG / Austrian National Public Health Institute)
- » Panel discussion on “Key challenges for affordable access to new medicines: what role for a new process for assessing selected new and expensive medicines in Austria?”
 - Sarah Mörtenhuber (Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)
 - Claas Röhl (patient representative; NF Kinder)
 - Nathanael Paterno (hospital payer; WIGEV / Vienna Healthcare Group)
 - Ronald Pichler (pharmaceutical industry; PHARMIG)
 - Invited commentary: Carolin Hagen (Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services)
- » Audience discussion (Q&A)

Facilitated by Maximilian Salcher-Konrad (GÖG / Austrian National Public Health Institute)