

# Hungary

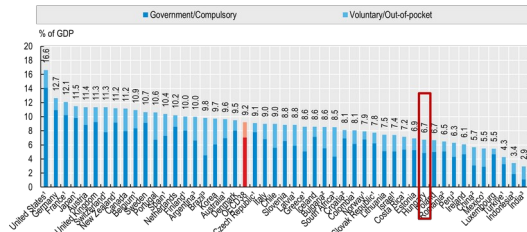
## National Institute of Health Insurance Fund Management (NIHIFM)

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## Pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policies

Figure 7.1. Health expenditure as a share of GDP, 2022 (or nearest year)



Note: 1. OECD estimate for 2022. 2. Refers to 2021. 3. Refers to 2020.  
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2023; WHO Global Health Expenditure Database.

### Pricing in the out-patient and in-patient sector

#### Pricing at ex-factory level

- > **External reference pricing:** EU 27 + Switzerland + Norway + Iceland
- > **Internal reference pricing:** therapeutic groups and active substance based groups, recalculation of reference prices with blind bidding
  - Maximum amount of reimbursement for each drug in the group is based on the lowest priced medicine (with a minimum required DOT turnover)
  - Stepped pricing system for generics:
    - 1st generic drug - 40%,
    - 2nd generic drug - 20%,
    - 3rd generic drug - 10%,
    - 4-6th generic drugs - 5% afterwards at least 1 HUF (0,3 € cent).
  - for biosimilars: the cheapest medicine is required to be prescribed for new patients. Stepped pricing system for biosimilars: 1st - 30%; 2nd - 10%; 3rd - 10% afterwards at least 1 HUF (0,003 €)
- > **Cost-effectiveness requirement for innovative medicines** (ICER < 2-3 x GDP per capita)

#### Pricing at wholesale level

- > **Strictly regulated regressive margins**  
8% - 6.5% - 5% - 4.4%, depends on the ex-factory price
- > **Statutory pricing according to Decree of the Ministry of Health 5/2007**

#### Pricing at pharmacy level

- > **Strictly regulated regressive margins at pharmacy level**  
27% - 23% - 20% - 18%, depends on the wholesale price
- > There is no retail margin at hospital level
- > **OTC products have free pricing**, pricing regulations apply for only reimbursed drugs in the in- and out-patient sectors
- > VAT: 5% for all medicines in the in- and out-patient sectors

#### Centralised tendering for certain medicines

- High-cost oncology and biological drugs (item-based reimbursement)
- Separate budget for haemophilia and HCV infection
- Tenders are valid for 1-3 years
- Tender price may differ from list price: pharmaceutical companies may offer confidential discounts or rebates to hospitals or to NIHIFM

#### Legislation

- Act XCVIII of 2006 on the Safe and Economic Supply and Distribution of Medicines and Therapeutic Medical Devices
- Decree of the Ministry of Health 32/2004 (IV.26.) - price setting
- Decree of the Ministry of Health 5/2007 (I.24.) - margins
- Decree of the Government 452/2017 (XII.27.) - reimbursement

### Reimbursement in the out-patient sector

#### Positive list

Positive list publicly available for reimbursed drugs

#### Reimbursement categories

- > **Co-payment:** Patients should pay the difference between the gross retail price and the reimbursement, in case of 100% reimbursed drugs the co-payment is 300 HUF (-1 €)
- > **Reimbursement without restrictions** – in any labelled indication by any physician  
0%, 25%, 55% and 80% reimbursement
- > **Reimbursement with restrictions** – restrictions on therapeutic indication, health care provider and medical specialization  
50%, 70%, 90% and 100% reimbursement
- > **Named patient program:** nearly 100% reimbursement + various co-payment (-0,75 € - 7,5 €)  
Reimbursement for patients for non-reimbursed therapies or off-label indications
- > **Vulnerable groups:** special reimbursement scheme for patients with chronic diseases, in bad socioeconomic status or other conditions – no co-payment up to maximum amount of potential co-payment (30 €/ month)

#### Special requirements, paybacks

- > **Internal reference pricing groups (since 2007)** with maximum reimbursement within the group
- > **Managed Entry Agreements**
  - ~ volume cap
  - ~ unit based pay-back
  - ~ outcome based
- > **Statutory 20% payback** on ex-factory price proportionated to reimbursement rate, temporary 40% for products over the price of 10 000 HF (-26 €)
- > **Statutory 10% additional payback** on sales revenue for drugs being reimbursed for 6 years without competitors
- > **Reimbursement payback for all Wholesale companies:** 2.5% payback on the wholesale margin
- > **Reimbursement payback for budget overspending:** global cap
- > **Sales representative fee** ~832 000 HUF/capita/month (~2130 €/capita/month)

#### Co-payments

Percentage co-payments, fixed co-payment (in the 100% reimbursement category), no co-payment for in-patient medicines

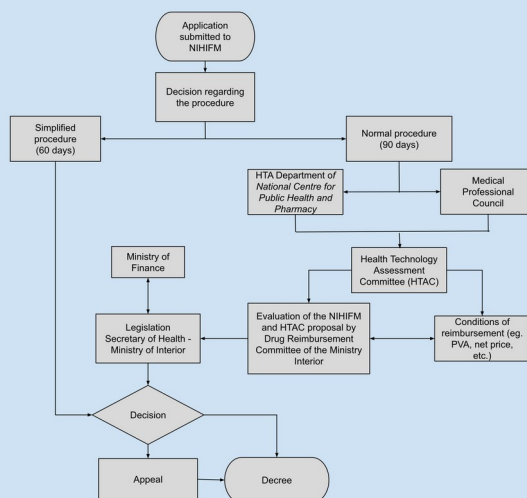
### Reimbursement in the in-patient sector

> **high-cost oncology and biological drugs (item-based reimbursement) and high-cost therapies for haemophilia and HCV infection**

100% reimbursement category for expensive medicines that are used in hospitals. Reimbursements of these drugs are linked to therapeutic indication and paid directly by the NIHIFM.

- > There is no co-payment for hospital medicines
- > **The diagnoses-related group (DRG) system** covers the costs of hospital care, including pharmaceuticals

#### Process of decision on reimbursement



HTA is mandatory for new active substance, new indication, new combination if at least one substance is not reimbursed, price increase, reimbursement category changes