

Netherlands

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2026

CHANGES IN PRICING

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- The Netherlands is planning to update the pricing and reimbursement process. The proposed plan is to use horizon scanning as a basis for the P&R process:
 - Early awareness of new developments and awareness of potential issues for HTA and negotiations
 - Broader scope (all new medicines) but streamlined, customized approach
 - A triage model for deciding on the route of reimbursement in which important stakeholders come together to discuss whether medicines need to be assessed, what assessment pathway they should follow (e.g. rapid review vs full HTA) and who should negotiate (e.g. Ministry, insurers, hospitals)

OTHER CHANGES

- Increasing budget pressures: searching for policy options to decrease pharmaceutical spending
- Report published: "Towards societally acceptable prices for expensive medicines" with recommendations to deal with high volume high expenditure products, high uncertainty, evergreening. Further development of these principles will likely lead to an updated assessment framework.
- The Netherlands is supporting IHSI in exploring a HS database for MedTech.

SPECIAL TOPIC:

Regulation, pricing and reimbursement of pharmaceutical combination products

- The Netherlands has no special regulation for combination products.
- The products go through the same HTA (and negotiation) process.
- Negotiations are with single marketing authorization holders.
- If there is already a financial contract for one of the components, the additional component will need to provide a discount to make the combination cost-effective.