



PPRI
Pharmaceutical Pricing and
Reimbursement Information



CYPRUS

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2023

CHANGES IN PRICING

- Assessment of the current pricing system is in progress. The assessment report will be used as a tool to support future minor or major modifications, including re-evaluation of the reference basket countries used for External Price Referencing.
- Annual price revision (implemented on 01/02/2023)
- Recall of a set price and delisting a product from the price list is now possible for products that are no longer marketed. The MAH is required to notify about the product's permanent marketing cessation report via the electronic notification platform of the Pharmaceutical Services Department, MoH (implemented from 2022).

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- Modifications of reimbursement rates of me – too products now set by negotiation (partially implemented)
- Modifications in the internal reference price methodology for me -too products (partially implemented)
- Introduction of Managed Entry Agreements
- Use of Health Technology Assessment
- Use of Economic Evaluation

OTHER CHANGES

- Introduction of volume control and prescription monitoring (Implemented)
- Plans to interrelate remuneration of physicians with key performance indicators as a measure to enhance efficiency of the system and expand generic penetration (Planned)
- Beneficiaries have now access to several important data (number and expiry of referrals, prescription refill dates and general medical data (Implemented)
- Electronic shortages registry also available to the public (Planned)
- Introduction of MEAs (Implemented)
- Introduction of multi-winner public tenders (Implemented)
- Shortages, trading notifications, supply and distribution disruptions are reported via the MoH's respective monitoring electronic platform

SPECIAL TOPIC:

Developing and implementing pharmaceutical policies in view of the current challenges (soaring inflation, medicine price increases, increasing no. of medicine shortages)

- 1) The problem of **medicine shortages** seems to have intensified, partially imputed to Brexit and the invasion in Ukraine. It has further repercussions for a small market such as Cyprus:
 - The MoH provides incentives for the registration of niche products
 - The HIO provides incentives for the reimbursement of niche products
 - Where shortages are expected, quantities are procured through tendering if possible
- 2) **Price increases:**
 - Price increase applications can be submitted by MAHs along with adequate justification supporting the request. However, no specific rules or policies are set for price increases. Several criteria are considered for a positive price increase decision, including medical and therapeutic needs, availability and price of therapeutically alternative drugs and the risk of the drug being withdrawn from the market due to non-profitability.
 - Price level freezing has not been adopted as part of pricing policy.