

# LATVIA

## Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2023

### CHANGES IN PRICING

- parallel distribution and parallel importation of medicinal products shall be at least 10% lower than the price of reimbursable medicinal products against which parallel distribution or parallel importation has been performed (end of 2023)
- extra limitation for price increasing (second half of 2023)
- price difference between cheapest and most expensive product in cluster cannot exceed 60% (second half of 2023)

### CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- No changes

### OTHER CHANGES

- Medical devices can be prescribed on e-prescription.

### 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** (i.e. especially in certain product groups like antibiotics) seems to have intensified:
  - national register to report shortages;
  - export ban for products under MEA
- 2) **Price increases:**
  - a. According to our legislation we can reject price increase, if
    - i. if the new price is higher than price in Lithuania or Estonia, or higher than second lowest price in reference countries.
    - ii. the applicant has not provided a justification based on calculations for the increase of price.
    - iii. due to revision of the price the foreseeable increase of costs is not commensurable with the funds granted for reimbursement.
    - iv. the sales amounts of the respective medicinal products or medical devices within the scope of reimbursement procedures have increased by more than 10 % in the preceding year and reimbursement of such medicinal products and medical devices to patients with other diagnoses has not been started or the prescription conditions have been changed.
  - We have thought about price level freezing during this period but due to medicine shortages and medical need we haven't implemented it.