

SWITZERLAND

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2023

CHANGES IN PRICING

Cost-containment measures (Massnahmen zur Kostendämpfung, Kodä) **Planned** amendments of the Federal Act on Health Insurance (KVG). Among other measures, following contents regarding pharmaceutical policies are discussed:

- **Differentiated assessment at admission and subsequent examination**
Adapted Effectiveness/Adequacy/Efficiency assessment of medical services / medicines according to Article 32 KVG: The Federal Council is authorized to determine how and when the periodic review of services is to be carried out in accordance with the criteria of effectiveness, adequacy and economic efficiency.
- **Managed entry agreements (MEA)**
In order to increase legal certainty and applicability, the legal bases will be consolidated in the Act and their scope will be extended to include not only medicines but also medical devices and medical analysis.
- **Increase in price gap of generics and biosimilars**
The prices of generic drugs and biosimilars depend on the market volume and prices of the respective brand-name products.
A generic drug will be considered economical if its price is 20% - 80 % lower than that of the original drug (sales 4 Mio. - 40 Mio. per year).
A biosimilar will be considered economical if its price is 5% - 60 % lower than that of the original drug (sales 4 Mio. - 40 Mio. per year).

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CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

Cost-containment measures (Massnahmen zur Kostendämpfung, Kodä) **Planned** amendments of the Federal Health Insurance Act (KVG).

- **Operationalization and technical implementation of MEA**
In addition to the legal basis, the principles as well as the technical implementation of MEA (incl. their reimbursement) are discussed and developed with the stakeholders.
- **Planned amendment of the Ordinance on health insurance benefits (KLV)**
- **Preliminary discussions** of the MAH with the FOPH prior to the submission of the application for a new drug.
- **Deductibles** for pharmaceuticals: Increase of the deductibles in relation to the prices of the most favourable third of all drugs with the same active ingredient composition (including not only generic drugs but biosimilars and brand-name products / reference drugs).
- Reimbursement for drugs on a **case-by-case basis**: Adjustment of reimbursement criteria

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OTHER CHANGES

Further cost-containment measures (Massnahmen zur Kostendämpfung, Kodä) within the planned amendment of the Federal Act on Health Insurance (KVG):

- **Networks for coordinated care**
The coordinated care network is defined as a new service provider under Art. 35 KVG. In a coordinated care network, healthcare professionals from different professions join forces under the direction of a physician in order to provide medical care that meets the needs of the patient "from a single source".
- **Fair reference fees for a free choice of hospital throughout Switzerland**
The cantonal governments must set reference fees for elective inpatient treatment outside the canton. The reference fees are based on the fee for comparable treatment in a hospital that is on the hospital list of the canton of residence. This measure is intended to promote inter-cantonal hospital competition.
- **Services of pharmacists**
The regulation of services that can be performed by pharmacists at the expense of the OKP will be adapted. This includes, in particular, the possibility of performing independent services as part of prevention programs or pharmaceutical consulting services to optimize drug therapy and therapy adherence independently of drug dispensing.

Miscellaneous changes

- Accelerated reimbursement of drugs
A test of the FOPH with the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products provides access to reimbursement at the same time as marketing authorization.

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SPECIAL TOPIC:

Developing and implementing pharmaceutical policies in view of the current challenges

- 1) **Medicine shortages**
 - A national register for reporting shortages for essential active substances is implemented in Switzerland (Reporting office, FONES)
 - No export bans are currently implemented in Switzerland
 - Medicine reserves supplies: In preparation to release some antibiotics from the reserve stocks
 - Regulatory measures **in discussion**:
 - Adjustment of the list of reimbursed drugs for official preparations (ALT) regarding the facilitation of the reimbursement of official preparations as a substitute for missing medicines
 - Reimbursement of partial packages to enable the dispensing of only the required quantity of medicine (e.g. antibiotics)
 - Facilitation of the reimbursement of imported medicinal products as a substitute for missing medicines
 - Financial measures: No direct financial measures
 - Stakeholder involvement: Task Forces on shortages involving all stakeholders
 - Other: Ongoing discussions on how to detect disruptions earlier and more broadly, to facilitate their management, and to improve market conditions overall, with the goal of having fewer disruptions
- 2) **Price increases**
 - Do you have specific policies for price increases?
 - Yes: The MAH can submit a request for a price increase (maximum every 2 years or at the earliest 2 years after admission). After examination by the FOPH and the EAK, a decision is made whether and to what extent the price is increased (usually max. +20%).
 - Price level freezing during this crisis: No, but an extraordinary measure to contain the development of costs is implied since 2020, stating that price increases are not possible. The FOPH may exceptionally grant price increases if the supply of the Swiss population must be ensured and therapeutic alternatives are lacking.
- 3) **Other measures related to current challenges**
 - Various communications from the FOPH to allow for pragmatic approaches to solve medicine shortages (No legally binding nature)
 - Discussions with provider representatives (especially pharmacists)

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