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Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2014

Policies related to high cost medicines

D E V E L O P M E N T S	Changes in pricing	Changes in reimbursement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Changes in the country basket in EPR:</u> From 2014 on, Bulgaria and Romania are considered for the determination of the European average price by the Pricing Committee of the Federal Ministry of Health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Change in appeal institution:</u> The Independent Pharmaceutical Commission (Unabhängige Heilmittelkommission, UHK), which acted as appeal authority for manufacturers in case of a negative decision about the inclusion in reimbursement, ended its activities at the end of 2013. Its activities were taken over by the Federal Administrative Court from 2014 on. <u>Annual adjustment of the prescription fee:</u> Prescription fee of 5.40 € in 2014 <u>Increase in application fees:</u> Application fees for the inclusion into the Reimbursement Code were increased for the first time in five years. A rise of 5.0% was negotiated with industry representatives for the current year. The next year and the following will see the fees rise again by 2.5% each.
	Other changes 2014	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Establishment of the Medicines Commission:</u> A new Commission, with the aim to improve medicines management at the interface of out-patient and in-patient sectors, was established in March 2014. The Medicines Commission has the mandate to provide recommendations about the 'best point of service' for high priced and specialized medicines and new (joint) funding models. <u>Regional projects:</u> Under the framework of the on-going Health Care reform, regional projects were planned/launched (e.g. a project in Vienna to address polypharmacy). 	
S P E C I A L T O P I C	High cost medicines	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Special pricing policies:</u> There are no specific pricing policies for high cost medicines. <u>Special reimbursement/funding policies:</u> There are no specific reimbursement/funding policies for high cost medicines. <u>High cost medicines at the interface of out-patient and in-patient sectors:</u> Dual financing for all medicines in Austria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the out-patient sector: Medicines included in the positive list (Reimbursement Code) are reimbursed by the social health insurance. In the in-patient sector: Medicines are funded via the DRG system, except for about 50 defined medical services (usually oncology medicines) whose use is explicitly funded to the hospital. For specific medicines, there are funding agreements (e.g. sharing of funding between out-patient and in-patient public payers) in some provinces. <u>Key challenges and solutions:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> New high cost medicines Medicines at the interface of the out-patient and in-patient sectors Solutions: establishment of the Medicines Commission, regional funding models 	