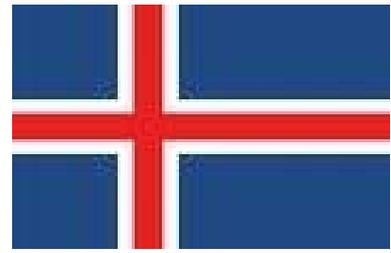




Iceland



Icelandic Medicine Pricing and Reimbursement Committee (IMPRC)
Ministry of Welfare - The Directorate of Health - Icelandic Medicine Agency (IMA)

Rational use of medicines in the in- and out-patient sector

Educational strategies:

- Training for prescribers in rational use is included in the curriculum of medical doctors.
- The Directorate of Health has the task to prepare and publish clinical guidelines included first choice of medicines.
- Information on medicines, prices and medicines use is regularly published on the websites and in particular rational use of medicines. Information on those websites has constantly been improved in accordance with objectives of the current National Medicine Strategy.
- Media-based approaches do not occur on a regular basis.
- Printed material on rational use has regularly been published by the Social Insurance (SI).

Managerial strategies:

- The Directorate of Health has the task to supervise prescriptions according to law.
- A web-based prescribing system is in use.
- Reimbursement lists are published by the IMPRC and a positive list are in use.
- The Pharmaceutical and Therapeutic Committee of the University Hospital (LSH) assesses and includes new and expensive hospital drugs for in and out patient care paid by the Social Insurance (SI).
- Physicians who seem to deviate grossly from rational prescribing of misusable /abusable pharmaceuticals are requested by the Directorate of Health to clarify the medical reasons for their prescribing.

Strategies to improve use of medicines

Economic strategies:

- General it will financially benefit the patient if lower price medicines are chosen but there is no financial incentive for the prescriber to do so.
- There is no peer-group monitoring in Iceland.
- Price monitoring is carried out - external with the Nordic countries and also internally.
- Pharmaceutical budgets are on hospitals basis and not on individual medical doctor's basis.

Regulatory strategies:

- General reimbursement in specific groups of medicines is only of most economical packages in each group. For more expensive medicines in those groups reimbursement needs special permission from the Health Insurance.
- Generic substitution is in place. INN prescribing can be done but is not obligatory.
- Advertising and pharmaceutical promotion are regulated in accordance with EU legislation.
- The use of different medicines can be limited to different levels of the health sector and medicines in Iceland are classified into PO and OTC.

Evaluations of the measures:

- Two independent evaluations by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and by the National Audit Office on actions taken by the authorities since the economic crises in 2008 in order to cost contain and rational pharmaceutical usage
- The overall pharmaceutical spend has reduced 6% per year '08-'10 measured in EUR and this reduction has continued for the last two years. DDD usage has increased.