



The Netherlands

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

Educational strategies:

Please list here projects/initiatives/activities which aim at informing or persuading health providers or patients: e.g.

- ⇒ Media campaign about counterfeit medicines
- ⇒ Government funded "Instituut voor Medicijngebruik (Dutch Institute for Rational Use of Medicine) provides support for training of health care professionals, provides information, and provides tools for monitoring of prescription behavior

Managerial strategies:

Please list here projects/initiatives/activities which aim at guiding clinical practice: e.g.

- ⇒ There are prescription guidelines which are made by the professionals themselves.
- ⇒ Information systems, prescription software
- ⇒ Most hospitals have a formularium
- ⇒ There is a, so called, pharmacy standard according to which reliable care is organised.
- ⇒ On regular basis Therapeutical Pharmaceutical Agreements are being discussed between healthcare providers.

Strategies to improve use of medicines

Economic strategies:

Please list here projects/initiatives/activities which aim at offering incentives for institutions, providers and patients: e.g.

- ⇒ Government has made general agreement with both medical specialists and general practitioners on cost-effective prescribing of certain groups of medicines (e.g. proton pump inhibitors, statins, ACE inhibitors); when these groups don't meet their targets their fees might be set at a lower level
- ⇒ Some health insurance funds offer general prescribers financial incentives for cost effective prescribing
- ⇒ Reimbursement lists for out-patient sector

Regulatory strategies:

Please list here projects/initiatives/activities which aim at restricting choices: e.g.

- ⇒ Preference policy of health insurance funds: When generic substitution is possible, a health insurer is allowed to select only one specific brand per active substance for reimbursement
- ⇒ For certain groups of (expensive) medicines, prescription is limited to specified indications
- ⇒ Rational Pharmacotherapy programme aims to make the use of available medicines safer, more effective and efficient.
- ⇒ A monitor on the therapeutical complaints has been introduced.

Evaluations of the measures:

Increase of the generic prescription rate:

DDD (volume)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
% Generiek	51,2	53,9	59,1	62,5	65,7