

# BELGIUM

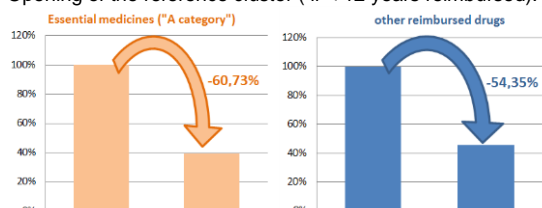
## Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2017

### Special topic: hospital medicines

#### CHANGES IN PRICING

#### CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

##### 01.03.2016: PATENT CLIFF: price level original specialities: Opening of the reference cluster ( if < 12 years reimbursed):



##### 01.01.2017:

Decrease in price and reimbursement level to 'patent cliff' level for generics without a reimbursed original

##### 01.03.2017: COMBI CLIFF

Reimbursement level of combination  $\leq$  sum of the reimbursement levels of the single drugs.

##### 01.03.2017: BIOLOGICALS

Reimbursement level of biological & biosimilar medicinal products drops 10% in stead of 7,5% when the cluster opens.

**SAFETY MARGIN:** The permitted limit for the supplement charged to the patient on top of the patient co-payment. This can only be applied for reference medicines.

- Before March 1st 2016 : The safety margin cannot exceed 25% of the public reimbursement base, with a maximum of € 10,80.
- Since March 1st 2016 : The maximum amount is lowered from € 10,80 to € 5,00.

##### REVISION OF THE REIMBURSEMENT OF SOME IMPORTANT CLASSES OF DRUGS:

- **Antibiotics: category B → C** (higher patient co-payment)
- Bisphosphonates
- Urinary antispasmodics
- Immunoglobulins
- Intranasal corticosteroids
- Molsidomine

#### OTHERS CHANGES

01.01.2017: INDEXATION PHARMACIST FEE  
€ 4,16 → € 4,20

#### SPECIAL TOPIC: HOSPITAL MEDICINES

- Hospitals can negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to obtain lower prices for drugs.
- Hospitals carry out their own procurement, but they are free to purchase together with other hospitals → joint procurement is possible
- Only list prices are available to the public.
- Most drugs in hospital are reimbursed via a lump sum system (fixed amount per patient, independent of actual consumption), but exceptions:
  - Important drugs (therapeutical and social needs, innovative drugs)
  - If cost of medicine could lead to  $\searrow$  administration
- Health Technology Assessments are performed for all reimbursed drugs, both in the in-patient and out-patient sector.
- The main challenges in 2017 regarding hospital medicines:
  - Higher uptake of biosimilar medicinal products
  - How to deal with parallel distribution.
  - Financial intervention for promising therapies for severe/fatal diseases with no reimbursed alternative treatment

The pharmaceutical expenditure in the in-patient sector of recent years:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
pharmaceutical expenditure (in-patient) in mio €	1.305	1.360	1.392	1.403	1.473	1.670	1.831

\*extrapolated