

FRANCE

The French National Health Insurance Fund – La Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie (CNAMTS)

Major reforms from 2007 till now

- Price reviews 2007
- Reimbursement review (2007): 3rd wave and 15% reimbursement rate disappears (01/2008)
- New copayment (01/2008): € 0.5 per package and development of larger pack size
- Wholesaler mark up review (03/2008)
- List of 217 OTC products in free access in pharmacies (07/2008)

Current and planned measures

- 2008: Development of health economics evaluation by French National Authority for Health
- 2009: Reform of health care organization “HPST – Hôpital, Patient, Santé, Territoire” (decentralisation at regional level). Law for 02/2009 and implementation not planned before 2010

Current pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement system (as of 2/2009)

Pricing

- Price policies for pharmaceuticals:
Statutory pricing for reimbursable pharmaceuticals at ex-factory price level

External price referencing (DE, ES, IT, UK) for innovative pharmaceuticals, internal price referencing for other reimbursable pharmaceuticals
- Wholesale and Pharmacy Mark-ups: Regressive mark-up schemes for reimbursable pharmaceuticals
- VAT
2.1% : reimbursable pharmaceuticals,
5.5% : non-reimbursable pharmaceuticals (vs 19.6% standard VAT)

Reimbursement

- Positive list: 70% of all pharmaceuticals on the market included
- Reference Price System: Since August 2003 for generic groups (ATC 5 level)
- Co-payment: 35% and 65% depending on the product
- Mechanisms for vulnerable groups: 100% reimbursement for patients with long-term diseases (30 diseases) and low income (<7,083€/year)
- Monitoring of medicines for out-patients delivered by hospital pharmacies since January 2009