



SWISS NATIONAL REPORT

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New fees for outpatient treatment have been introduced in 2003 after almost ten years of economic studies and technical evaluations. It is extremely sophisticated, represents almost all the detailed procedures a practitioner or a consultant is able to do, and therefore displays about 4600 positions. But finally it appears too complicated and does not reward equally the different specialties. Therefore a revision has been started since 2012. However the different proposals never meet agreement and are usually dismissed because of the cost neutrality demanded by the insurers. On our side we try to make them understand that the fees have never been adapted to the cost of living since 1996. The subject became acutely sensitive politically speaking because of the steady rise in the cost of health care. The Federal Government has given till the 31st of October to the partners in the hope of a consensus till then. It is unfortunately not the case. On the contrary the insurers have transmitted to the Federal Public Health Office only unofficial partial agreements between them and the Federation of surgeons and invasive consultants Fmch. In these conditions it appears without any doubts that the Government is going to settle the debate with authority.

A consensual solution would have been by far most preferable.

The rise in health care cost is reflected by a rise in insurance premiums which is socially unacceptable. Medical fees play a secondary role in the matter. But other factors such demography, technical developments, staff costs, and pharmaceutical prices play for sure a much greater role. The difference in drug prices between Spain and Switzerland are not in the order of 30% as the comparison with other countries like UK, France or Germany may show, but between 300% and 1000%. There is there a clear scandal. Nevertheless this disturbed situation is obviously going to lead to enforced state control and rules. It results usually in treatment delays and decrease in quality. Not treating adequately the patients is undoubtedly cheaper...This is the source of major concerns.