

HUNGARIAN COUNTRY REPORT

NEWS

New way of the specialist training for family doctors

In order to start working as a GP in Hungary, doctors have to be specialized in family medicine or to be in the last year of specialization. As the demographic situation is getting worse, the new regulation intends to attract more professionals in this field. According to these new rules, doctors having already one clinical specialization are allowed to buy a license of a practice in family medicine if they enroll in the specialist training scheme. They have to finish this training in 6 year period otherwise they would lose the license. The incentive for finishing the training as soon as possible is the change in financing by multiplying by 1.1 the actual income.

New rules for incentives cost-effective (low cost) pharmacological treatment

Since 2007 the budget of the insurance fund spent on the reimbursement of the drugs decreased by imposing price decrease through fixation by active ingredient or therapeutic groups. The drug can not be reimbursed if the price is over (30-60%) the reference price of the group. The doctors had constraints to prescribe the drugs with lower cost, but apart from the feedback, the negative incentives related to the prescription were never put in practice. The "doctors' part" of these rules changed. The groups set for follow up of the cost of prescription are: antilipidemic, antihypertensive, antidiabetic treatment, proton pump inhibitors. The National Insurance Fund monitors the cost of prescription and the difference to the reference price published in these groups. The 5% of those who are the most expensive are obliged to special CME course.

Quality indicators

The support of the World Bank given to Hungary in 2008 autumn imposed the need for measures of the state budget spending. So the work of the GPs paid based on capita, is needed to be measured too. Performance indicators are going to be introduced. At this time a pilot is going on without having financial consequences. The following indicators are followed-up: vaccination, antihypertensive patients, management of diabetic patients (HbA1c ophthalmological check-ups), management of patients went through an AMI (beta-blocker treatment), number of patients with stroke, antibiotic treatment, statin treatment, screening activities, referral rate.

Pandemic situation

GPs are involved in the vaccination against H1N1 virus. There is a small (<1 EUR) payment/vaccine.