

POINT OF VIEW

GENERIC EXPANDING ACCESS TO TREATMENT

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We saved 100 bn. Euros health systems in one year, said Adrian Van Den Hoeven

Access to medication and treatment is the focus of attention worldwide. How can it be improved everywhere, is there a recipe for Bulgaria, asked Adrian Van Den Hoeven. He is the director of the European Association of generic manufacturers "Medicines for Europe".



Maria
CHIPILEVA
chipileva@gmail.com

- Mr. Van Den Hoeven, access to medicines is an important topic in the world, you know what is the current situation in the various countries of the EU? How generic industry can make drugs more affordable?

- While the impact of some expensive drugs protected by patents is rising treatment costs, generic and biosimilar products are a cornerstone for the stability of health systems. Recent analysis to IMS Health showed that no generic drugs patients and health systems would pay 100 billion. Euros more in 2014. Currently, funds for organic products account for an increasing proportion of total expenditure on drugs. The advent of biosimilar products offers the possibility of paying funds in Europe and the US ability to save other 50-100 billion. Euro 2020. Even more importantly, biosimilar products increase access to treatment since 2007, when it was a Lancia filgrastim. Since then, 44% more patients with cancer have received treatment in Europe.

- Increasingly, we hear that the current business and pricing model with drugs is exhausted, is it true that? Is there a need for legislative change?

- Despite these undeniable results, Member States are exploring several short-term solutions to save money by

pushing andou prices of generic drugs rather than increase access to them. Prof. Zoltan Kalo from ELTA University showed differences in access to drugs that are widely used to treat cardiovascular disease and after their patent - for example, clopidogrel. The use of this product has increased in some evropesyki countries with over 500%.

On June 17, 2016 Council conclusions stressed the importance of timely delivery of generic and biosimilar products to improve access to therapies and to ensure stability of the national health systems. "Medicines for Europe" applauded calls by European health ministers for more competition in the pharmaceutical market. In order to maintain the stability of their health systems, the authorities should support the generic industry. The development of biosimilar drugs can cost over € 250 million. And very little The companies can not afford such investments. published in August 2015 document "Riga Roadmap" provides an action plan of the EU and the countries in it.

- Every year more money is given to drugs, what are the results for patients? Do they get better access to treatment?

- Access to medicines to patients increases when the market enter generic and biosimilar drugs. Providing high quality, safety and efficiency is top priority for our members. Our industry is fully committed to working with European and national regulators. Proudly we can say that millions of European patients now have better access to treatment due to generic and biosimilar drugs. Especially in countries like Bulgaria, the lower prices of generic drugs are available to patients with less cost. Studies show that the higher surcharge restricted treatment. Therefore we believe that the Bulgarian government will do more to Varicose access to generic drugs.

- Why are the prices of medicines are different in different countries?

Health policies are subject to the performance of each country. In Europe, differences exist primarily in innovative products, but occur in generic and biosimilar drugs.

It is also important to understand how prices compare. In many cases distribution costs of the medicaments are higher than the medications themselves. For example, in Germany the fee in pharmacy charged is € 9 which is well above the average price of a pack of generic drugs. We do not believe that drug prices are very high in countries such as Bulgaria or Romania. In fact, governments in these countries have taken measures to reduce prices, which had two main effects: Patients pay extra more, and in some cases there is a shortage of medicines because of losses from supplies as low prices. For example, last year 2,000 drugs were withdrawn from the Romanian market. Similar results could be disastrous for patients only.

- In Bulgaria also has a shortage of cheap drugs, especially in oncology, who is the bigger problem then - high or low prices?

- The government is taking measures that affect the generic industry, because they lead to excessive price reduction. This increases the risk of availability of supplies and lead to shortages of medicines. It should be understood that there is no low-cost drugs, especially in oncology, for the production and development. Our industry can not continue to improve access, if forced to realize losses.

To solve these problems, we want with the Bulgarian government to develop stronger progenerichni policies. This will improve real access to treatment will reduce co-payments and give Resistance to the public budget for drugs.

- What are the measures for better access to innovative and generic medicines?

- Authorities should recognize generic and biosimilar drugs as a solution for expanding access to treatment and a better life for all Europeans. They should encourage the entry of generic medicines and to remove barriers to dosiganeto the market. Policies should promote cost-effective measures that encourage both cost savings and stability. Such are the ones that lead to the rise of generic and biosimilar drugs.

- What are your expectations for the development of generic idnustriya? In what areas would mark the biggest upsurge?

- Members of the "Medicines for Europe" invest in medicines with added value as an opportunity to meet and satisfy the needs of patients. Working with proven ingredients whose toxicity and other properties have been well studied, we can reduce the time to develop and combine new technologies with known molecules, but this requires significant investment and effort. Our goal is to play a leading role in the initiation of this new research capability, focusing on existing molecules. The improvement in the treatment of known molecules will bring new benefits to patients and their help to better control their disease. satisfying the needs of patients, our medicines provide a new horizon for all who seek a better quality of life through their treatment.

Best BG Clinics



"Best BG Clinics"

This is a joint project of Clinica.bg and the Union of Bulgarian medical specialists (SBMS). It aims to raise awareness among patients about the possibilities of treatment in the country.

review



This month your questions meet specialists from Hospital "Trakia" in Stara Zagora.

GUIDE

POLL

Is there a problem with the work of the Fund to treat children?

- Yes, mainly delayed treatment.
- Yes, once leaving members of the Public Council, it is a sure sign of trouble.
- No, discontent has always gone along with his work, but children are sent for treatment.
- No, people need to understand that procedures documents require time.
- I do not know, I'm not familiar with the topic.

VOTE

HEALTH CALENDAR

September 2016

