



COMMENTARY

Open Access

The Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network – a decade of exchange of information and policy research?

Sabine Vogler^{1*}, Nina Zimmermann¹, Kees De Joncheere²

From 3rd International PPRI Conference 2015: Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies: Challenges Beyond the Financial Crisis
Vienna, Austria. 12-13 October 2015

Policy-makers throughout Europe and beyond have been working to develop and implement, and further adjust, the most appropriate mix of policy measures in pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement to ensure equitable access to medicines despite limited budgets. The experience with policies in other countries is highly valuable information for them.

In order to support policy-makers, the Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network of competent authorities was established in 2005, with the aim to offer a platform for competent authorities of pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement to exchange information and data and to establish a sustainable reporting system for country information.

Within the decade of PPRI's existence, more than 60 country reports (information about medicines policies for the out-patient sector, hospital pharma reports, and integrated country profiles about the out-patient and the in-patient sectors) of 28 different countries and more than 60 country posters were produced. Comparative analyses were undertaken, e.g. in the PPRI report [1], the PHIS Hospital Pharma report [2] or in scientific articles [3-5]. A glossary [6] and indicators were developed and are regularly updated. These deliverables have been shared in the open domain (<http://whocc.goeg.at/Publications/>).

In addition to these reports and tools, the instrument of PPRI network queries has proven its importance. A PPRI network query allows PPRI network members to ask for specific and quick information about a policy and situation

in the other countries represented in the PPRI network [7]. In total, 319 PPRI queries have been launched until June 2015.

The PPRI network is predominantly Europe-based. It has been growing over the years and currently comprises competent authorities for pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement from 45 countries (thereof all 28 European Union Member States, another twelve European countries, and five non-European countries) as well as European and international institutions (European Commission, OECD, WHO, World Bank). Face-to-face meetings of the PPRI network are organised twice a year. The PPRI network is characterized by trust and mutual respect.

The last decade has brought both new challenges (e.g. financial constraints due to the crisis, new premium-priced medicines) and opportunities (e.g. new policy tools such as managed-entry agreements, patent expiries of biotechnological medicines) for policy-makers. Participation in the PPRI network has supported them to deal with these developments and discuss possible solutions and collaborative approaches. In the light of on-going challenges, the PPRI network is well placed and prepared to continue playing its role as discussion and information exchange platform for the years to come.

Acknowledgements

The establishment of the PPRI network by the project consortium of Österreichisches Bundesinstitut für Gesundheitswesen (ÖBIG, predecessor of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), and WHO, Regional Office for Europe was co-funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Public Health Information Programme of the European Commission and by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Issues during 2005-2007. Since 2008, PPRI is a country-driven and self-financed initiative; the PPRI secretariat is affiliated to Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, with financial support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health. A 'sister' project (Pharmaceutical Health

* Correspondence: sabine.vogler@goeg.at

¹WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies, Health Economics Department, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian Public Health Institute), Vienna, 1010, Austria
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Information System, PHIS), running from 2008 until 2011, was co-funded by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health.

Authors' details

¹WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies, Health Economics Department, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian Public Health Institute), Vienna, 1010, Austria. ²Essential Medicines and Health Products Department (EMP), World Health Organization (WHO), 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Published: 5 October 2015

References

1. Vogler S, Habl C, Leopold C, Rosian-Schikuta I, de Joncheere K, Lyager Thomsen T: **PPRI Report**. Vienna: Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information; 2008, http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/BooksReports/PPRI_Report_final.pdf. Accessed 15 July 2015.
2. Vogler S, Habl C, Leopold C, Mazag J, Morak S, Zimmermann N: **PHIS Hospital Pharma Report**. Vienna: Pharmaceutical Health Information System (PHIS); 2010, http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/BooksReports/PHIS_Hospital%20Pharma_Report.pdf. Accessed 15 July 2015.
3. Vogler S, Espin J, Habl C: **Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) – New PPRI analysis including Spain**. *Pharmaceuticals, Policy and Law* 2009, **11**(3):213-234.
4. Vogler S, Habl C, Bogut M, Voncina L: **Comparing pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policies in Croatia to the European Union Member States**. *Croatian Medical Journal* 2011, **52**(2):183-197.
5. Vogler S: **The impact of pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policies on generics uptake: implementation of policy options on generics in 29 European countries—an overview**. *Generics and Biosimilars Initiative Journal* 2012, **1**(2):93-100.
6. WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies: **Glossary of pharmaceutical terms. Update 2013**. Vienna; 2013, http://whocc.goeg.at/Literaturliste/Dokumente/MethodologyTemplate/PHIS%20Glossary_Update2013_final_gesamt.pdf.
7. Vogler S, Leopold C, Zimmermann N, Habl C, de Joncheere K: **The Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) initiative—experiences from engaging with pharmaceutical policy makers**. *Health Policy and Technology* 2014, **3**(2):139-148.

doi:10.1186/2052-3211-8-S1-E4

Cite this article as: Vogler et al.: The Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network – a decade of exchange of information and policy research? *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice* 2015 **8**(Suppl 1):E4.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

