

Plenary Meeting of the National Competent Authorities on Pricing and Reimbursement and Public Healthcare Payers (NCAPR)

12 December 2023, 9H45-16H00 CET
(Hybrid: Brussels, Belgium/Webex)

OUTCOMES

On 12 December, the **National Competent Authorities on Pricing and Reimbursement and public health care payers (NCAPR)** held their last Plenary meeting of the year. The meeting took place in Brussels (Belgium), back-to-back with the 7th Biosimilar Multistakeholder Event (13 December), and was co-chaired by the Spanish Presidency and the European Commission.

Session 1 – Non-paper on the strategic direction for the NCAPR

After the opening remarks from Rainer Becker on behalf of the Commission, and César Hernández for the Spanish Presidency, the first session of the meeting focused on the non-paper prepared by the Spanish Presidency on defining the strategic direction of the NCAPR, as a follow-up to the outcomes of the October Plenary. The draft non-paper was generally welcomed and no major objections were identified. Several NCAPR members stressed again the need to clarify the vision and mission of the group, come to concrete deliverables, as well as ensure alignment with other relevant initiatives. Clarifying questions were asked about the roles, responsibilities and election of the management group, which was deemed useful to ensure the continuity of the work and representation of the NCAPR in other fora. It was concluded that the Spanish Presidency will prepare a revised version of the non-paper based on the comments received, which will be shared with the NCAPR members for written consultation.

Session 2 – Access to antimicrobials

The meeting continued with a session on access to antimicrobials. DG HERA presented their ongoing work on a Revenue Guarantee Scheme for recently authorized antimicrobials, and collected insights on how this may impact negotiations and interact with national P&R procedures. They also provided an overview of the foreseen Joint Procurement of antibiotics and treatments for respiratory viruses ahead of winter 2024-2025, about which a survey will soon be launched. Christine Ardal (NO) then debriefed on the EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI 2), which has a dedicated “access to antibiotics” work package.

Session 3 – Biosimilars

After the lunch break, a last session took place on ensuring budget sustainability through competition, with a focus on biosimilars. Esa Heinonen (FI) gave an update on the HMA Biosimilar Working Group activities and called for more coordination and collaboration with the NCAPR group. DG SANTE followed with an information point on the tender for capacity building to support the uptake of biosimilars in a multi-stakeholder approach. Finally, some recent developments in biosimilar policies from different countries were presented. Pal Rydstrom (NO) shared the successful experience of biosimilar tendering and switches in Norway, while Esa Heinonen (FI) presented the automatic substitution law in Finland that will be implemented as of 2024.

The meeting was closed by the co-chairs and the upcoming Belgian Presidency, who presented their political priorities. The co-chairs thanked all participants and noted the next meetings in 2023.