Background

Objective: Rapid increase of costs of reimbursement in Poland led to redaction of the drug pricing mechanisms. As a result of new law which brought revolutionary changes to the healthcare system in Poland was introduced in 2012. The aim of this work is to summarize the two years of drug pricing in Poland in line with new mechanisms that resulted in substantial savings in reimbursement costs.

Methods: First, new mechanisms implemented in the new reimbursement law: new mechanism of reimbursement, rules for intellectual property (IP), new method of calculation of reimbursed drug price, new enforcement of mediated list and lower co-payments for patients. The data have been extracted on the basis of new law implementation and reimbursement periods.

Results: In 2012 the total expenditure on reimbursement of open care drugs was 64.1 billion PLN (16.2 billion EUR), in 2013 it was 75.8 billion PLN (19.3 billion EUR). Total costs of reimbursement were spent on reimbursement of open care drugs – 4.0 billion PLN (1.0 billion EUR) in 2012 and 4.8 billion PLN (1.2 billion EUR) in 2013.

Conclusions: The new reimbursement law resulted in substantial savings in costs of drugs. The success of this mechanism is evident, as costs of drugs were partially shifted towards patients.

Summary

Pricing of Medicines in Poland – Two-Year Overview of How the New Law Affects Costs of Reimbursement

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