



ФОНД ЗА ЗДРАВСТВЕНО  
ОСИГУРУВАЊЕ НА МАКЕДОНИЈА  
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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Increased availability of medicines 2015 and 1Q2016 Annual Reports on Medicines



The availability of quality medicines for all insureds in Macedonia is a continuous commitment of the Health Insurance of Macedonia, and in 2015 our insureds were provided with greater availability of medicines, and a facilitated way of getting said medicines that are covered by the Fund. In 2015, insureds were able to obtain medicines from the List of medicines covered by the Fund in primary healthcare in 772 pharmacies, that is to say, 695 pharmacies - organizational units, 68 pharmaceutical stations, 3 rural pharmacies and 6 mobile pharmacies on the territory of the entire country. Prescription medicines covered by the Fund

- obtained by 1.25 million insureds, i.e. 67.5% of the average 1.85 million insureds.

In 2015, 1153 brand name medicines from various manufacturers were available to our insureds in the pharmacies. In 2015, the count of generics in pharmaceutical form and dosage reached 427 for primary health care, of which 321 generics, that is to say 75%, were without surcharge. Compared to 2009, there was an increase in available generics and a significant count increase in medicines without surcharge. To illustrate this, in 2009 377 generics were available, of which only 20% were without surcharge.

The use of prescription medicines has been increasing steadily in the past years due to greater availability of health care for the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. Namely, after the implementation of the Government projects, rural physician, rural pharmacies and pharmaceutical stations, we brought the medicines closer to the citizens, making them more accessible to them which in turn resulted in greater use of medicines. In 2015, the Fund allocated 2.5 **denar-years** for medicines.

Of the 14 groups of medicines, mostly consumed are those for the cardiovascular system, with 9.2 million prescriptions in 2015, a 9% increase compared to 2014, and 6% higher funding compared to 2014, that is to say 672.8 million denars spent in 2015. Of this group of medicines, ATC group C prescription medicines were obtained by 460 210 Fund insureds from the pharmacies in 2015.

Medicines for the nervous system were the second most consumed group in 2015, with 3.25 million prescriptions, a 14% increase compared to 2014, and a 5% higher funding compared to 2014, that is to say, 365.16 million denars in 2015. Of this group of medicines, ATC group N prescription medicines were obtained by 409 886 Fund insureds from the pharmacies in 2015.

The medicines for the respiratory system were the third mostly consumed group with 358,9 million denars spent for 1.03 million prescriptions, a 7% more prescriptions compared to 2014, or a 15% increase compared to 2014, when the funding was 313.12 million denars.



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Of this group of medicines, ATC group R prescription medicines were obtained by 275 946 Fund insureds from the pharmacies in 2015.

The increased use of prescription medicines covered by the Fund follows the global trend of increased consumption, evident for the period between 2008 and now, where the volume of provided medicines for the insureds increased and the funding for prescription drugs covered by the HIFM nearly doubled. In 2015, the funding for prescription drugs was 2 425 655 134 denars for 21 129 626 dispensed prescriptions, representing a 9% increase in the count of dispensed prescriptions, and 7% more funding compared to 2014.

**If in 2002 1.2 billion denars were allocated for 8 million prescriptions, in 2008 1.3 billion denars were allocated for 10 million prescriptions, and in 2015 the state increased the budget for medicines up to 2.5 billion denars for 21 million prescriptions. The difference with 10 years ago is that the insureds used to pay their medicines themselves which were several times more expensive.**

Table 1. Overview of the count of dispensed prescriptions and total amounts (denars) for the 2008-2015 period

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008/2015
Count of dispensed prescriptions	10.288.509	14.965.727	15.277.792	16.332.551	17.485.146	17.822.132	19.385.458	21.129.626	
% difference in prescriptions	100%	145%	102%	107%	107%	102%	109%	109%	205%
Total amount (den.)	1.319.484.643	1.829.110.673	1.778.028.785	1.902.841.544	1.993.189.875	2.123.979.166	2.263.253.158	2.425.655.134	
difference in amounts%	100%	139%	97%	107%	105%	107%	107%	107%	184%

In 2015, the use of medicines by region shows that the average use has increased in all regions except in the Southeast region, where a negligent decline in the count of prescriptions has been registered. The use is highest in the Skopje region and lowest in the Northeast region.

The use by count of dispensed prescriptions is greatest in the Skopje region, with a total of 6 663 032 dispensed prescriptions (approx. 31.5%). The use of prescription medicines in total amounts is again highest in the Skopje Regional Office with a total of 816 428 382.21 denars (approx. 33.6%). Pelagonia region is next with 2 773 million prescriptions for which 299.94 million denars have been paid, and the Southwest region is third with 2 336 million prescriptions and 255.73 million denars paid thereto.

For the first ten mostly used generic medicines by amount, in 2015 the Fund has allocated 810.7 million denars or 33% of total funding for medicines, whereas for the ten mostly used medicines by prescription 8.8 million prescriptions have been dispensed, or 42% of total prescriptions dispensed.

The first three mostly used medicines are the generics: Atorvastatin - medicine for reducing blood fat, Tamsulosin - prostate medicine, Salmeterol + fluticasone - respiratory system medicine, against asthma and COPD, and in terms of dispensed prescriptions the three mostly used generics are: Enalapril - high blood pressure medicine, Diazepam - nervous system medicine, and Lisinopril - high blood pressure medicine.



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Medicines for diabetes, rheumatism, stomach aches and bacterial infections were also part of the top ten mostly used medicines.

If comparing the first quarter of 2016 and the same period in 2015, one may ascertain that in pharmacies dispensed 5 347 275 prescriptions covered by the Fund, 3% or 154 599 prescriptions more than the same period last year, and the total funding allocated for this purpose was 627 277 931 denars, which is in turn 5% or 30.18 million denars more than in 2015.

The greatest increase in use of medicines is evident for the ATC group B - medicines affecting the blood and blood-forming organs. Among them, there was an increase of 17% in the count of prescriptions or 10 956 prescriptions more compared to the same period last year, requiring 26% or 1 963 059 denars more to be allocated.

High growth in use was also evident for medicines belonging to ATC group A - digestive system medicines, with 8.12% or 51 558 more prescriptions compared to the first quarter of 2015, that is to say, 10.14% or 5 206 286 denars more in terms of the amount.

According to the amounts, ATC group R - respiratory system medicines grew by 9.67%, or 8 3121 74 denars more in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015. The number of prescriptions for this group of medicines in the first quarter of 2016 increased by 1.1%, that is to say 2857 prescriptions more compared to the same period last year.

The highest growth by count of prescriptions dispensed occurred for the diabetes medicine - metformin, with 34 798 more prescriptions in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period last year.

The highest growth by amount occurred for the respiratory diseases medicine - thiotropium bromide, on which 3 357 679 denars more were allocated compared to the first quarter of 2015.

The main parameters of the Fund's analysis on the use of medicines represent a solid foundation for in-depth research and measures, but also a database used for creating the healthcare policies and strategies in order to increase the level of quality health services and the availability of quality medicines to our insureds.

