

Pharmaceutical pricing policy

Systematic review



World Health Organization

Systematic reviews for the update of the WHO Guideline on country pharmaceutical pricing policies (2020)



Objective

To assess the **effects of 10 pharmaceutical pricing policies*** on price, volume, availability, and affordability of pharmaceutical products on patients and health systems, together with colleagues from Utrecht University and University of York.



Methods

We conducted **systematic reviews** on the 10 pharmaceutical pricing policies according the Cochrane Handbook and guidance document.



Key Messages

The systematic review resulted in a **detailed analysis of 56 publications** on pharmaceutical pricing, providing **up-to-date evidence** on 10 pricing policies.

* Pharmaceutical pricing policies included: 1) pooled procurement, 2) value-based pricing, 3) single-source pharmaceuticals, 4) cost-plus pricing, 5) tax reductions for pharmaceuticals, 6) interventions promoting the use of quality assured generics and biosimilar medicines, 7) reference pricing, 8) interventions promoting price transparency, 9) mark-up regulations across the pharmaceutical supply and distribution chain and 10) tendering and negotiation



Research impact

Publication

“Systematic reviews for the update of the WHO guideline on country pharmaceutical pricing policies” was published by WHO.

“Systematic reviews of ten pharmaceutical pricing policies – a research protocol” was published in the **Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice**.

“Evidence on the effectiveness of policies promoting price transparency – A systematic review” was published in **Health Policy**.

“A critical review of methodologies used in pharmaceutical pricing policies analyses” was published in **Health Policy**.

WHO guideline on country pharmaceutical pricing policies (2020)

This systematic review was used by WHO as core research to update the WHO guideline on country pharmaceutical pricing policies from its previous 2015 version.

