

Press release

More than 2600 generics with proven quality

Generic medicines market share

achieves record of 47.8%

Generic medicines market share has risen from **47.1% in January to 47.8% in July**, establishing a new record in Portugal, according to provisional figures from the Infarmed. This increase in market share is a sign that the involvement of physicians, pharmacists and patients can guarantee the best access to medicines with greater savings to both users and the National Health Service.

The rise of 0.7% over the last semester followed several information campaigns aimed to the patients, in particular, but also recent measures to stimulate the enlargement of the generic market. One of them rewarded the pharmacies with 35 cents per generic package dispensed. These contributions are intended to achieve a goal of 50%.

This share of generic drugs has already reduced the patients' expenditure over the last years in about 8 million euros. Between January and July 2017, users spent 407.6 million euros, reducing their costs in 7.8 million compared to the same period of 2015.

Confidence in generic medicines and biosimilars has increased over the past years, with a strong contribution from the available safety and quality information. According to data from the Infarmed's Laboratory, brand-name drugs and generics have the same quality and they both have a number of residual non-conformities. The non-compliance identified situations, which involve withdrawals, affect only 1.5% of the products in both cases.

Over the last 13 years, 2624 generics (from more than 500 active substances) were analysed by the national authority. Omeprazole, amlodipine, ramipril, alprazolam and sertraline were the five active substances with more analysed generics.

A better management of available resources is possible through incentives in the use of drugs that have the same composition, effects, quality and safety but that are also cheaper. This balance will allow a better access to innovative medicines.

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