



AIM IS PART OF THE ASCERTAIN PROJECT TO SECURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICINAL PRODUCTS TO EUROPEAN PATIENTS

AIM participates in a European project on affordability of medicinal products. The Erasmus University of Rotterdam, who has the lead of the project, has just kicked off for four years the Affordability and Sustainability improvements through new pricing, Cost- Effectiveness and Reimbursement models to Appraise iNnovative health technologies (ASCERTAIN) consortium. ASCERTAIN is a project financed by the European Union's flagship programme for health research Horizon Europe and will, among other things, develop new ways to calculate how to price new and expensive medicinal products, such as for instance gene and cell therapy.



"The launch of ASCERTAIN is a very important step. We are glad to participate in this project where we will be able to continue our work on the topic of affordability of medicinal products."

Loek Caubo, AIM President

Medicines prices on an upward trend

Healthcare payers and pharmaceutical companies have been developing mechanisms to price medicines to secure patients access to new health technologies, while keeping health systems financially sustainable. Nevertheless, the prices of medicines have been on an upward trend, to such an extent that now almost all European Union (EU) countries are affected by access issues. What is more, a new generation of medicinal products with important list prices are expected to enter the EU and throw healthcare budgets off-balance, as well as not reach all patients. Solutions to find a balance between stakeholders' needs must be found.

Looking beyond the state-of-the-art

AIM is part of a consortium led by the Erasmus University Rotterdam working together with eight other consortium partners that will include academia, companies and other European organisations. Consortium members will look beyond the state-of-the-art in terms of pricing and reimbursement models and policies, health technology assessment for three

disease areas: precision cancer medicines, cell and gene therapy as well as medical devices or in vitro diagnostics. The project's objective is to contribute to a better anticipation and calculation of pricing, HTA and reimbursement conditions for innovative health technologies (IHTs). Research and development costs will be among the elements that will be taken into account in these new calculation methods.

AIM has been active since 2019 on the transparency of medicines prices

It is very significant that ASCERTAIN is launched as the European Commission will publish its legislative proposals for the revision of the pharmaceutical legislation at the beginning of 2023. AIM being part of ASCERTAIN is also a direct consequence of our work on fair pricing, that started as early as December 2019 with the publication of the fair pricing model, our flagship proposal to rein in excessive levels of medicinal products prices. AIM will be co-lead of the work package on pricing methods for innovative health technologies.

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AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world. Through its 54 members from 28 countries, AIM provides health coverage to 240 million people in the world and 209 million in Europe through compulsory and/or complementary health insurance and managing health and social facilities. AIM strives to defend the access to healthcare for all through solidarity-based and non-for profit health insurance. Its mission is to provide a platform for members to exchange on common issues and to represent their interests and values in the European and international Institutions.

