



New study demonstrates that Colombia, compared to OECD countries, falls behind in terms of Access to New Medications

In the last years just 4 new molecules were included in POS, access to part of other technologies was granted through exception mechanisms

Bogota, December 2nd 2016. Colombia, compared to 20 OECD countries, is identified as the country where it takes more time to register a new medication and to include it in the national format (Mandatory Health Plan – POS (for its Spanish initials)), which directly affects patients access to new technologies.

This study was conducted by IMS Health, leader worldwide consulting company, and commissioned by the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA).

The investigation provides enlightening elements regarding the dynamics of access to prescription medications in Colombia by comparing timing for registration and recording in the national format, between Colombia and a selected group of 20 OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) member countries, which allows comparison with prior studies.

The study compares 247 new molecular entities (NME) between January 1st 2009 and November 20th 2014 for these reference countries and through February 2016 in the case of Colombia.

Main Conclusions:

The average timing for registration of a new medication in Colombia is 22 months but it may take up to 144 months in extreme cases. The average time varies, on the other hand, according to the therapeutic area, with a range between 16 months (primary care) and 26 months (oncology).

“Innovative medications contribute to prevent premature death, to reduce hospitalization expenses, while keeping individuals in better health, productive capacity and enjoying better living quality. Delays in access to new medications as a measure for cost control would result in higher costs for the Health System in the long run”, stated Luis Villalba, Executive Director of FIFARMA.

The study also reveals that Colombia is last in the overall ranking when comparison is made of the percentage of molecules included in the national formulary (POS) over total molecules registered in the country, for the 21 countries included in the sample.



On the other hand, only 6% of molecules registered and commercialized in Colombia (62) are currently included in the POS; this means that only 4 molecules are covered by the health care system in the country in generalized manner for eligible beneficiaries and not through mechanisms of exception. Such proportion is far distant from the 71% representing the average rate for the remaining countries under analysis.

“We know that the access process to the national format has not been very efficient in the past several years in Colombia but it is surprising to confirm that, when compared to OECD countries, molecules listed in the national format do not even represent ten percent” mentioned Gustavo Morales, Executive President of AFIDRO.

Another relevant finding demonstrates that OECD countries incorporate new medications in their national formulary at the same instance of their registration, while in Colombia, besides being very few molecules, those entities listed take an average of 2.7 years, according to historical records.

Other data from the study:

- Out of the 247 new molecules registered in at least one of the 20 OECD member countries, in Colombia only 97 medications have a sanitary registry and 62 have been commercialized.
- Investigators took eight therapeutic areas as reference: oncology, diabetes, cardiovascular health, self-immune illnesses, anti-infectious diseases, asthma or COPD, anti-retroviral, vaccines, amongst others, while excluding generics, bio-similar products, OTC and herbal products, as well as seasonal vaccines or radiology products.

The complete study is available at <http://fifarma.org/index.php/publications/> and www.afidro.org

FIFARMA is the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry. It is a regional organization created in 1962, representing 12 pharmaceutical research and development companies and 9 pharmaceutical associations in Latin America.

AFIDRO - The Association of Research and Development Laboratories, is a non-profit private industry organization that compiles the research and development companies located in Colombia, dedicated to the development of maximum quality innovative therapeutic solutions for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of mankind.