

Value and pricing of innovative medicines from patients' perspective

EFA is the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations, we represent 41 national organisations of patients with asthma, allergy and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in 25 European countries, and more than 30% of the European population living with these diseases.

EFA aims at improving timely and equal access to quality care for patients with allergy, asthma and COPD, ensuring that they live in a healthier environment, increasing patients' involvement in European projects, initiatives and decisions impacting their health, and guaranteeing equitable representation of European patients with these diseases.

We share the European Patients' Forum (EPF) view that health is a fundamental right for everyone and therefore medicines, which allow for this right to be fully enjoyed by all people, should not be considered as normal goods. They should rather be public goods and be accessible and affordable to everyone in need.

We strongly support EPF's paper "Core Principles from the Patients' Perspective on the Value and Pricing of Innovative Medicines". This document will represent a valuable contribution for the debate about pricing and reimbursement systems and their influence on access and equity, values that we, as a patients' association, consider of the utmost importance.

Proper access to medicines is crucial for people with chronic diseases, such as asthma, allergy and COPD, as they will be better empowered to manage their conditions. The access to basic and innovative medicines is therefore paramount to improve their health and quality of daily-life, avoiding exacerbations and sometimes even death.

EFA consulted internally with members that provided their useful contributions. On the one hand, it was underlined the need to have access to basic medicine for all people, particularly for those affected by chronic diseases and with low-income. Accessibility to new innovative medications has also been highlighted as a fundamental factor that should be guaranteed in all EU Member States within a short period of time, no more than 12 months.

In line with EPF's core principles, members suggested a review of the current system of pricing and reimbursement of medicines in Europe to make it fairer and more transparent. Pricing and reimbursement authorities should increase the transparency of their decisions and involve all stakeholders in this process, including patients' organisations. We have the unique expertise of living with the disease in our daily-life, and therefore we know better than others the value of certain medicines to our health and quality of life.

We call on the European institutions to work on such an important topic for patients with asthma, allergy and COPD in Europe to limit health inequalities within and between Member States of the European Union.