

To
the Honorable
Mr. Andreas Lykourantzou
Minister of Health

Cc.: Mr. Yannis Stournaras, Minister of Finance
Mr. Marios Salmas, Deputy Minister of Health

Halandri, July 31, 2012

Honorable Minister,

Following yesterday's letter of SFEE, we would like to draw your attention on the crucial issue, which we have repeatedly reported since the beginning of the year to the leaderships of the Ministry of Health and EOPYY, but up to now we haven't received a specific answer.

As you already know, according to article 36 of L. 4025/2011 for the inclusion of every medicinal product in the positive list a fixed contribution as an entry fee is imposed. In case the entry fee is not paid by the MAHs the medicinal product is automatically excluded from the positive list.

Following that, according to article 6 of the Legislative Act which was published in the OJ 262/A/16.12.2011 and ratified by L. 4047/2012 (OJ A' 31) the entry fee was conveyed mandatorily to the hospitals against the medical expenses of insured patients. According to the above, hospitals should mandatorily offset the amounts of the above conveyed claims with their debts to the pharmaceutical companies.

Nevertheless, according to reliable information the pending amount which has not been paid by some companies amounts to around **€50-60 mill**. And despite the fact that we have repeatedly asked for the list of these companies, we have not received an answer yet ...

At the same time, not only the above millions have not been deducted from the pharmaceutical expenditure, but also the medicines in question of these companies remain in the positive list and are fully reimbursed by the social insurance funds. As a result, the above amounts are calculated in EOPYY's expenditure which is accordingly increased.

This policy followed by the State punishes the law abiding pharmaceutical companies for settling the amounts due either by off-setting them or by paying in cash -despite the fact that it was an horizontal and onerous measure for them- with the confidence that the State will implement the provisions legislated on its own.



The same companies are now called to pay through clawback the “exceeding amount” that was triggered to the outpatient pharmaceutical expenditure among other reasons due to the reimbursement of the medicines that should have been excluded from the positive list since 1/1/2012.

Honorable Minister,

It unacceptable for the State to punish with unplanned, unilateral and discriminatorily implemented measures one of the healthiest -in terms of contribution- sectors of the Greek economy. Especially in such a crucial period for our country, that the challenge we face is the change of mentality, all the measures should be first thoroughly examined under the light of transparency. The measures adopted must be structural and not horizontal and they should be equally implemented.

SFEE has expressed, especially during the last period, its deep concern that the non transparent policies and measures lead with certainty the medicinal supply chain to disruption having therefore immediate implications for patients’ access to medicines and public health.

Faithfully yours,

Fotis Mangalousis
Director General

Konstantinos Frouzis
President