



Register information on medicine in Finland

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Statistical authorities in Finland

- National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
- Statistics Finland
- National Agency for Medicine (Lääkelaitos)
- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (TTL)
- **Social Insurance Institution (Kela/FPA/SII)**
- Finnish Centre for Pensions (ETK)



Social Insurance Institution

Data since 1964 (1967)

- **1964: special reimbursements of medicine**
- 1970: on national pensions (guaranteed minimum pension), family pensions and child disability allowances
- 1971: sickness allowances and reimbursed visits in private health care services
- 1978: rehabilitation
- 1985: conscripts' allowances and basic unemployment allowances
- 1993: family allowances and child care subsidies
- **1994: maternal grants, labour market subsidies and housing allowances, prescribed medicine**
- 1996: reimbursed interventions in private health care services
- 1997: students' allowances

Reimbursement for prescribed medicine

SII reimburses only necessary costs for medicine

- Medicine has to be prescribed by a physician for **treatment of a disease or a medical condition**, not for prevention or maintaining health.
 - Medicine is used according to physician's advice.
 - Medicine can be purchased for **use of 3 months** according to the most inexpensive package.
1. Basic reimbursement: 42% of the price.
 2. Lower special reimbursement: 72% of the price.
 3. Higher special reimbursement: 100% of the price excluding the user charge of 3 €/medicine



Right for special reimbursement

- For specific diseases and medical conditions, a right for special reimbursement for medicine can be given for all Finnish citizens and permanent citizens.
- The Government has the right to decide which diseases and medical conditions are included in the scheme. SII gives the instructions which criteria have to be fulfilled before the special reimbursement can be given.
- Such a right has to be applied with a specific form B, which also includes physician statement.
- The special reimbursement can be paid by the SII after the application has been received by SII
- ICD-10 code available since 2000 (complete since 2002).

Diseases and medical conditions for which right for special reimbursement can be given

- 100%: bristfällig funktion i hypofysens framlob, hypofysär diabetes, diabetes, bristfällig sköldkörtelfunktion, bristfällig binjurebarkfunktion, bristfällig bisköldkörtelfunktion, pernicios anemi och annan malabsorption av b12-vitamin, myastentia gravis, multipel skleros, parkinsonism och därmed jämförbara rörelsestörningar, epilepsi och därmed jämförbara kramptillstånd, svåra psykoser och andra svåra mentala störningar, beteendestörningar vid mental retardation, glaukom, bröstcancer, prostatacancer, leukemier, andra maligna blod- och benmärgssjukdomar samt maligna sjukdomar i lymfatisk vävnad, rigeminusneuralgi eller glossofaryngisk neuralgi, agammaglobulinemi, svårt nedsatt könskörtelfunktion, aplastisk anemi, kroniska störningar i d-vitaminmetabolismen, kongeniala rubbningar i ämnesomsättningen, kroniska koagulationsrubbningar, följdtilstånd av transplantation, gynekologiska cancerformer, essentiell trombocytopeni eller granulocytopeni, maligna tumörer, vilka inte särskilt nämns ovan, sarkoidos, svår kronisk bukspottkörtelinsufficiens, generell erythrodermi, blåsförmigt eksem, uremi som förutsätter dialysbehandling, svår anemi i samband med njurinsufficiens
- 72%: kronisk hjärtinsufficiens, disseminerade sjukdomar i bindväv, reumatoida artrit och med dem jämförbara tillstånd, kronisk bronkialastma och kroniska obstruktiva lungsjukdomar som nära påminner om denna, kronisk hypertoni, kronisk koronararkärlsjukdom, kronisk hjärtarytmi, kronisk ulcerös kolit och crohns sjukdom, genetiska svåra rubbningar i fettmetabolismen (familjär hyperkolesterolemi och typ iii dyslipoproteinemi, gikt, rubbning i fettmetabolismen i samband med kronisk koronararkärlssjukdom



Additional reimbursement

- For medical costs exceeding 672.70 €, a special additional reimbursement can be applied from SII.
- After the additional reimbursement has been given, the costs exceeding 672.70 € are reimbursed to 100% excluding a user charge of 1.50 € per medicine and purchase.
- SII follows up the accumulation of medical costs. If the annual ceiling is reached, SII sends a notification home. This also includes instructions, how the additional reimbursement can be applied.



User charges 1994-2009

Reimbursement level

Basic

Special

– 1994-2002	8.41 €	4.20 €
– 2003-2005	10.00 €	5.00 €
– 2006-2009	none	(3.00 € /drug)

Prescription register

- owned by the Social Insurance Institution
- established in 1994
- includes information on the purchases of drugs which have been reimbursed under the health insurance scheme
- non-reimbursable medicines, OTC medicines, and medicines used in hospitals are excluded
- collected monthly from pharmacies
- published annually in the Finnish Statistics on Medicines
- data is habitually reported in number of patients and in cost of medicines



Prescription register: Content

1 PATIENT

- personal identification number
 - age, sex, place of residence
 - diseases entitling to special reimbursement
 - linking with other registers

2 PRESCRIBER

- Sickness Insurance Code
 - Speciality
 - Working place according to the latest survey

3 DISPENSER

- unique code
 - area
 - date of dispensing



Prescription register: Content

4 MEDICINE

- Nordic Commodity Number
 - trade name, pharmaceutical form, strength, pack size, (number of DDDs per package), marketing authorisation holder, ATC code
- number of packs received
- price
- reimbursement
- coded indication in the case of special reimbursement
- dosage and indication as written by the doctor (information is kept ca. 1.5 years)
- date of prescribing
- date of dispensing



No information available

- OTC medicine
- Non-reimbursed medicine, e.g. oral contraceptives
 - http://asiakas.kela.fi/laakekys_app/LaakekysApplication
- Inexpensive medicine until 31 December 2005
- Medicine purchased in other countries
- Use of medicine that has been reimbursed earlier or other people's medicine
- Medicine used in health care system



The use of data in scientific research

- The secondary use of register information collected for administrative purposes is allowed.
- Application to SII
 - free format but a study protocol has to be included
 - separate permissions are required, if other registers are to be used:
 - THL, Statistics Finland, Ministry of Social Affairs & Health)
- Evaluation of ethics and data protection: SII does it routinely, no statement from Ethical Board is required (excluding interventional studies, studies with human tissue samples etc.)



The use of data in scientific research

- Remember to include data costs in grant applications:
 - Collaboration with administration or research institutions: free of charge.
 - Otherwise: According to the use of IT time.
- Remember to allow enough time for your study:
 - Time from application to data delivery can be up to 1-1.5 years.