

Fighting inequality in health care and health

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BAPH symposium on 'Tackling inequities in public
health'

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Affordability of health care: reimbursement (1)

- Maintaining & strengthening the *progressive universalism* of the maximum billing system (MAF)
 - Extra cap of 250 euro for very low incomes
 - Freezing of all caps in 2023
- ⇒ 63 mio euro
- ⇒ official co-payments limited to 2%, most often ca. 3,3%, and max. 4% of net household income
- Generalized possibility of third-party payer => significant effect on GP's practice (53,6% of GP acts in 2019; ca. 88% of GP acts in 2023-III).

Affordability of health care: reimbursement (2)

- Massive investment in dental care (952 mio euro to 1.454 mio euro)
- Free visit to doctor for young people (< 24) with increased reimbursement (VT/BIM) if GMD/DMG
- Free access to dietary advice for young people with obesity, in enlarged 'starting trajectory' for diabetes II, in trajectory for eating disorders
- Free access to primary mental health care for young people (<24) (ELP)
- Automatic access to increased reimbursement (VT/BIM) for specific social groups (singles in unemployment & incapacity)

Affordability of health care: supplements and the 'convention model'

- Complete ban on supplements for patients with increased reimbursement (VT/BIM) in the ambulatory sector
 - for all disciplines
 - for all acts
 - for all health care providers
- in 2 steps 2025-2026
- Ban in medical imaging, standstill of local maxima in hospital sector
- Transparency on supplements for medical doctors and dentists in the ambulatory sector by 1.9.2025
- The convention model needs a fundamental re-think
 - Too generous for those who leave the solidarity system
 - Too rigid for those who work in the solidarity system

Integrating cure, prevention & population management

- Primary mental health care: the new convention (ELP-conventie, convention SPPL)
 - Affordable primary mental health care (free or cheap, already 330.000 people included)
 - Balanced roll-out by the Mental Health Care Networks
 - Reaching out to the vulnerable
 - Group sessions

⇒ 1 in 4 participants have increased reimbursement (VT/BIM)
 - The GP's mission in the New Deal: tailor-made local prevention
 - The perinatal care trajectory for vulnerable mothers (first 1000 days)
- + Updated Legislation on Patient Rights: accessible information

Health promotion & commercial determinants of health

- Social gradients w.r.t. tobacco, alcohol, food, air quality...
- Creating healthy environments *for all*
- Fighting social inequality implies: fighting the commercial determinants of unhealthy life styles (WHO-report)

Re-thinking the system: health (care) objectives

- IMC Health agreed on 3 broad health objectives
 - Prolong life span in good health
 - Reduce health inequalities
 - Ensure the healthiest possible environment
- Commission on health care objectives in RIZIV/INAMI (Schokkaert)

=> *Fundamental re-think of both convention system and budgetary governance, based on priority health (care) objectives*

Re-thinking the system

- *10 Franke vragen aan Frank*, Marc Coenen, Pelckmans
- Speech on the occasion of 60 years of RIZIV/INAMI
(<https://vandenbroucke.belgium.be>)

