

Pharmaceutical agreement 2022-2027: new missions of French pharmacies

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Introduction

Signed on 9 March 2022 in Paris by the French Health Insurance System (CNAM), the French Pharmaceutical Unions Federation (FSPF) and the French Community Pharmacists Union (USPO), the new French national pharmaceutical agreement strengthens the missions of pharmacists and positions them as "an essential player in national screening and vaccination programmes" according to Olivier Véran, Minister of Solidarity and Health. It materializes to the relationship between pharmacies and the health insurance system and endorses medium-term developments for the profession.

Aims

The aims, of USPO, is to enhance the value of the pharmacist's skills through the creation of new advanced services and to adapt community pharmacy economic models.

Method

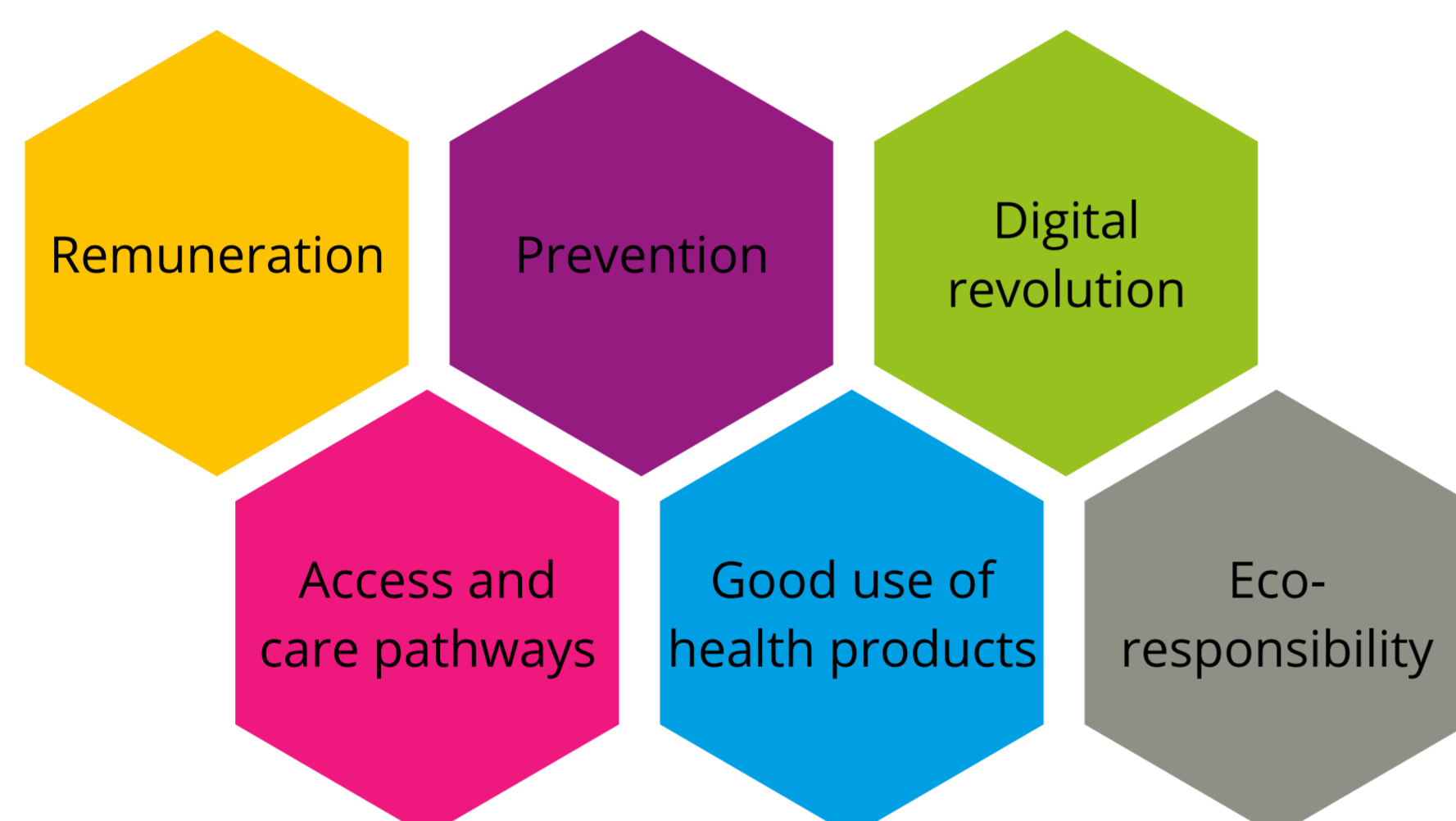
Since 1975, a national agreement gives the economic framework for the relationship between pharmacists and the French Health Insurance System. This qualitative research work, using a comparative method, made it possible to identify the new developments introduced by the pharmaceutical agreement 2022.

Results

Since 2022, the 20 142 community pharmacies of metropolitan France and the 615 french overseas territories have benefited from the new agreement.

This agreement brings significant progress for pharmacists in terms of services. The revision of the economic model for dispensing health products has been postponed until the end of 2023, due to a lack of time to negotiate properly.

The agreement is structured around 6 themes



The most advanced or innovative services of the 2022 agreement are described below :

Corresponding pharmacist

- Service : extend prescription and dosage adjustments for patients having already declared their pharmacist as their "corresponding pharmacist".
- Budget : 2 million euros (up to €500/year/pharmacy).
- USPO point of view : this system is currently only limited to pharmacists practicing in under-resourced areas, whereas it requires coordinated practice by regulation. The USPO is now calling for its extension throughout the country.



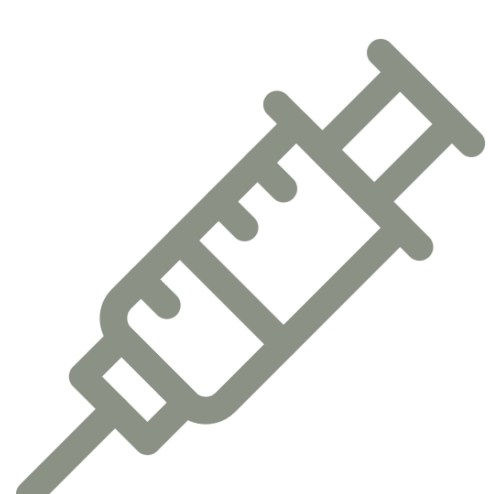
Home dispensation

- Service : a pharmacist goes to the patient's home to dispense medications and possibly carry out medical patient review. This service applies to concerns patients returning home after hospitalization ("PRADO").
- Budget : more than 8 million euros (€2,5/act).
- USPO point of view : the very low tariff and the restricted targeting of patients do not fully meet the needs. The USPO is currently working hardly on this point.



Vaccination

- Service : prescription and injection of all vaccines being part of the immunization programme, for patients older than 11 years (exclusion : immunocompromised patients).
- Budget : 50 million euros (€9.6/act).
- USPO point of view : the USPO suggests that the Hight Authority of Health (HAS) pushing further its logic by allowing the travel vaccination by the pharmacist, as is it done in other countries.



Colorectal cancer screening

- Service : addressable population (people between 50 and 74 years old, as per eligibility questionnaire), conselling and delivery of the screening kit to the target people.
- Budget : 8,5 million euros (€5/act).
- USPO point of view : This service is strongly supported by patients, with an excellent satisfaction score. With a limited effort, it delivers strong impact. The USPO encourages all countries to set it up.



Women urinary infection test

- Service : can be done in pharmacy without medical prescription, eligibility guided by a decision tree (with green and red flags), interpretation of the result and traceability. This can also be done prior to dispensing a medical prescription of antibiotic.
- Budget : 2 million euros (€6/act).
- USPO point of view : In case of positive result, only pharmacists with an interprofessionnal agreement can currently dispense directly the appropriate antibiotic. The USPO requested extension for all pharmacists. The French government wishes to extend it in 2024.



Sore throat test

- Service : can be done in pharmacy without medical prescription, eligibility by the Mac Isaac score, test practice, interpretation of the result and traceability. This can also be done after a medical prescription of antibiotic.
- Budget : €7/act.
- USPO point of view : the USPO proposes that the pharmacist be authorized to carry out all existing rapid tests (point-fe-care testing).



Medication and pregnancy counseling

- Service : short counseling for pregnant women, about vaccination, self-medication or prescription medications, and other substances. Lastly, the pharmacist gives a leaflet "Drugs and pregnancy: good reflexes" made by National Medicines Agency (ANSM).
- Budget : 2 million euros (€5/act).
- USPO point of view : the USPO wishes to go further by offering counseling for pregnant women under chronic treatment, or counseling about breastfeeding.



Adjusted dispensing

- Service : the adjusted dispensing ("DAD") of the medical prescription making possible to trace the pharmacist's intervention in the event of adjustment of the number of boxes dispensed in relation to the patient's therapeutic needs.
- Budget : 7,9 million euros in 2020 (€1,26/molecule).
- USPO point of view : the USPO requests the extension to certain medical devices (glycemic strips tests), or oral nutritional supplements.



Certified software

- Service : use of software certified by the Ministry of Health. They include additional functions for the pharmacist. They are interoperable with the patient's digital health space, and more secured.
- Budget : 4 million euros (€200/pharmacy).
- USPO point of view : this evolution had been expected for a very long time, and must supported future services.



Eco-responsibility

- Service : implementation of actions and procedures to reduce the ecological impact of the community pharmacies (energy, waste).
- Budget : no financial incentive.
- USPO point of view : this investment will generate long-term savings for each pharmacy. The USPO will make procedures available to its members in the form of practical sheets.



Conclusion

Since 1975, the national agreement has organised the relationship between pharmacists and the French Health Insurance System. This qualitative research work, using a comparative method, made it possible to identify the new developments introduced by the new pharmaceutical agreement (2022).