

Generic medicines released record value exceeding 670 million euros in 2024

Every second, the dispensing of Generic Medicines (GM) in community pharmacies generates a value of €21.20 for Portuguese families and the State. In 2024, GMs enabled the allocation of over €670.5 million to healthcare, nearly €90 million more than in 2023, representing a 15.4% increase. This is the highest number ever recorded in 14 years of tracking. In total, between 2011 and 2024, GMs have freed up resources worth €6.53 billion.

These figures come from the Center for Health Studies and Evaluation (CEFAR), and the online counter on the EQUALMED website, launched in 2020 through a partnership between the National Association of Pharmacies (ANF) and the Portuguese Association of Medicines for Health Equity (EQUALMED), formerly known as APOGEN, which in 2025 has already recorded a value exceeding €106 million.

EQUALMED, represented by its president João Paulo Nascimento, emphasizes that “GMs are essential health technologies for the NHS, promoting health equity by ensuring universal access, considering the population's needs. In a scenario marked by increasing longevity and the rise of chronic diseases — a trend that has intensified the growth of pharmaceutical expenses — GMs have a long-term social impact that goes far beyond savings. In terms of accessibility, GMs reduce inequalities, expand coverage, and improve therapeutic adherence. In the supply chain, they ensure the availability of essential drugs and foster a more competitive market, which generates benefits for health systems to reinvest more funds in other care areas. From an economic perspective, GMs allow for more efficient resource management, fostering the sustainability of healthcare budgets. Still, these added values, which also reflect in job creation, trade balance equilibrium, and medicine sovereignty, are only possible with incentives for the development of a predictable and attractive manufacturing industry that continues to bring value to the entire system.”

The president of the National Association of Pharmacies, Ema Paulino, adds, “We are pleased with the results achieved in 2024, which indicate that the dispense of generic medicines in community pharmacies enabled savings of €670.5 million for individuals and the State. However, it will be essential to move forward with the revision of the incentive model for the dispensing of generics

in community pharmacies, as foreseen in the 2025 State Budget, which will contribute to the continued growth of the generic medicines market share. Portuguese Pharmacies have played a key role in increasing the dispensing of generic medicines, a national goal for the sustainability of the medicine market. We are partners in promoting their use and in promoting the rationalization of medicine spending so that, without compromising quality or safety, access to innovative medicines and health services remains sustainable.”

The counter for the value generated by GMs can be consulted in real time on the EQUALMED website at: <https://equalmed.pt/medicamentos-genericos/>. According to Health Market Research (HMR), in 2024, more than 114 million GM packages were dispensed in community pharmacies, representing a 6.89% increase compared to the previous year.

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