

SPECIAL PAPER

Drug Policy in Cyprus

Despena Andrioti, PhD in Health Economics
Head, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, Athens, Greece

Andreas Kontopoulos, MSc in Health Services
Frederick University, Nicosia, Cyprus

Alexandra Skitsou, PhD in Health Services Research,
Visiting Professor, Frederick University, Nicosia, Cyprus

George Charalambous, MD, MSc, PhD
Assoc. Professor, Frederick University, Nicosia, Cyprus

Correspondence: Despena Andrioti, Paritsi 67, 15451 N. Psychiko Athens, Greece. dandrioti@gmail.com

Abstract

Background: The provision of pharmaceutical drugs is of enormous significance in our lives. Notable progress made in the domain of Public Health, combined with a general increase in the standard of living, has had a direct impact on the discovery of new drugs and cures and has shifted pharmaceutical policies further in line with the current needs of both the country's health system and, its population.

Aim: This research aims to both shed light on and analyse the current state of pharmaceutical policy in Cyprus, as well as to try to seek out its weaknesses, making suggestions, where possible, as to how to keep these to the minimum.

Results, and Conclusions: The lack of both high level research and major industrial facilities relating to the discovery of new pharmaceutical drugs in Cyprus, has hindered the effectiveness of pharmaceutical policy in general domains such as control over the circulation and production of pharmaceutical products in the country, their pricing and distribution and the monitoring of our drug supplies. The lack of transparency in a number of pharmaceutical procedures, and of information on drugs does not enhance the industry's reliability, but rather exacerbates an underlying feeling of insecurity relating to it among the population.

Key words: pharmaceuticals, consumption, pricing policy, provision, Cyprus