

## MAGISTERIAL PREPARATIONS

"What is this thing?" I hear you say it. Clarify here before we delve into it more. This term comes from the pharmaceutical sector. That's why I start with a brief introduction to the various product categories. This is exclusively about medicines available from pharmacists.

So you have the **specialties**. When a new active substance will lead to a new drug the pharmaceutical company gets the exclusive right to sell it for a period of 20 years. This period must cover the heavy investment in research and development. After that period expires the exclusive right and other companies can sell the same drug, but under a different name. They must demonstrate that the use produces the same effect, and that they are at least 30 percent cheaper than the reference product.



When this condition is complied it's called **generic drugs**. On both types of drugs you can get a refund from the health insurance.

**Prescribing by generic name** means then that the physician doesn't prescribe a medicine but the generic name of the main constituent. The pharmacist may then, in consultation with you, deliver a suitable and inexpensive drug. Again, you get an intervention of health insurance according to legal regulations.

### What is a *magistral preparation*?

Magistral preparations are medicines made by the chemist himself based on a prescription. It may be a very specific formula, a standardized recipe or a composition in which a medicinal product is processed. These preparations are reimbursed by health insurance provided that they are formulated with approved products. A limited number of preparations will be fully refunded, but for most it's a co-payment applies. The amount of the co-payment is fixed by supply module (eg. for capsules per ten pieces, for ointment per 50 gr), regardless of the composition of the preparation.

Products covered by health insurance interventions are included in a reference list or the Therapeutic Magistral

Formulary or TMF. This TMF also contains scientifically proven formulas, which were tested by the Belgian and European universities.

The prepared drug is as effective as a specialty or a generic product. In addition it guarantees the same quality, and the formula can be personalized to your specific need. Usually these magistral preparations are cheaper than their alternative counterparts. Often this is the only alternative when a drug is no longer available or missing.



Your pharmacist can for the following conditions prepare a remedy or recommend an inexpensive generic drug:

- Bedsores
- Constipation / Diarrhea
- Winter ailments such as cracks
- Depression, feeling generally well
- Sleep problems
- Joint pain
- Painkillers
- Heavy legs
- ...

The preparations are selected according to their therapeutic effectiveness and socio-economic advantage and then validated in terms of their composition, their determination method and, if necessary, the stability.

Each pharmaceutical preparation is displayed in the form of a monograph mentioning the indication, the composition, method of preparation, storage conditions, the expiry date and the dosage of the preparation.

### Decision

If you're interested in any of the remedies from the list, please let us know. We send you the recipe your doctor need to prescribe.

Thanks to pharmacist M. Tanghe.

Translation: **Marina**