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Pharmaceutical Group of European Union
Groupement Pharmaceutique de l'Union Européenne

Pharmacy – European Perspective

Darragh O'Loughlin

President PGEU



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Members: Professional Bodies & Pharmacists' Associations



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PGEU – What do we do?

- Promotes and develops cooperation in Community Pharmacy in Europe
- Advocates for the contribution community pharmacists make
- Ensures our vision of Community Pharmacy is reflected in EU policy and legislative developments
- Promotes the role of the pharmacist as a key actor in public health



Facts & Figures – Pharmacy in Europe

Continuing professional development or lifelong learning is a professional and ethical obligation of community pharmacists and is being reinforced in many EU countries.

On average, the medicines budget is **17%** of the total health budgets

There are **154.000** community pharmacies in the EU. Pharmacies are the most widely distributed healthcare facility in Europe.

194.500 deaths a year in the EU are due to miss dose and non-adherence of prescribed medication. Non-adherence is estimated to cost the European Union **€125 billion**

According to the World Health Organization WHO, the cost of adverse drug reactions (ADRs), including hospitalisations, surgery and lost productivity, exceeds the cost of

medicines in some countries

annually
Over **9,5 billion** prescription only medicine packs are dispensed in Europe annually. The great majority of medicines are prescribed in primary care setting and therefore dispensed in the

community pharmacies

Pharmacist role in European Context

- The role of the pharmacist is developing rapidly across Europe to meet the needs of modern health care systems
- Pharmacists are providing services in response to a dynamic and evolving set of local health care priorities and needs
- Influenced by regional, national, European and international policies and factors
- Despite diversity in European pharmacy systems, **we face the same challenges and are united in developing the profession**
- European pharmacy practice: from **medication centered to patient centered**

Shared Challenges Across Europe

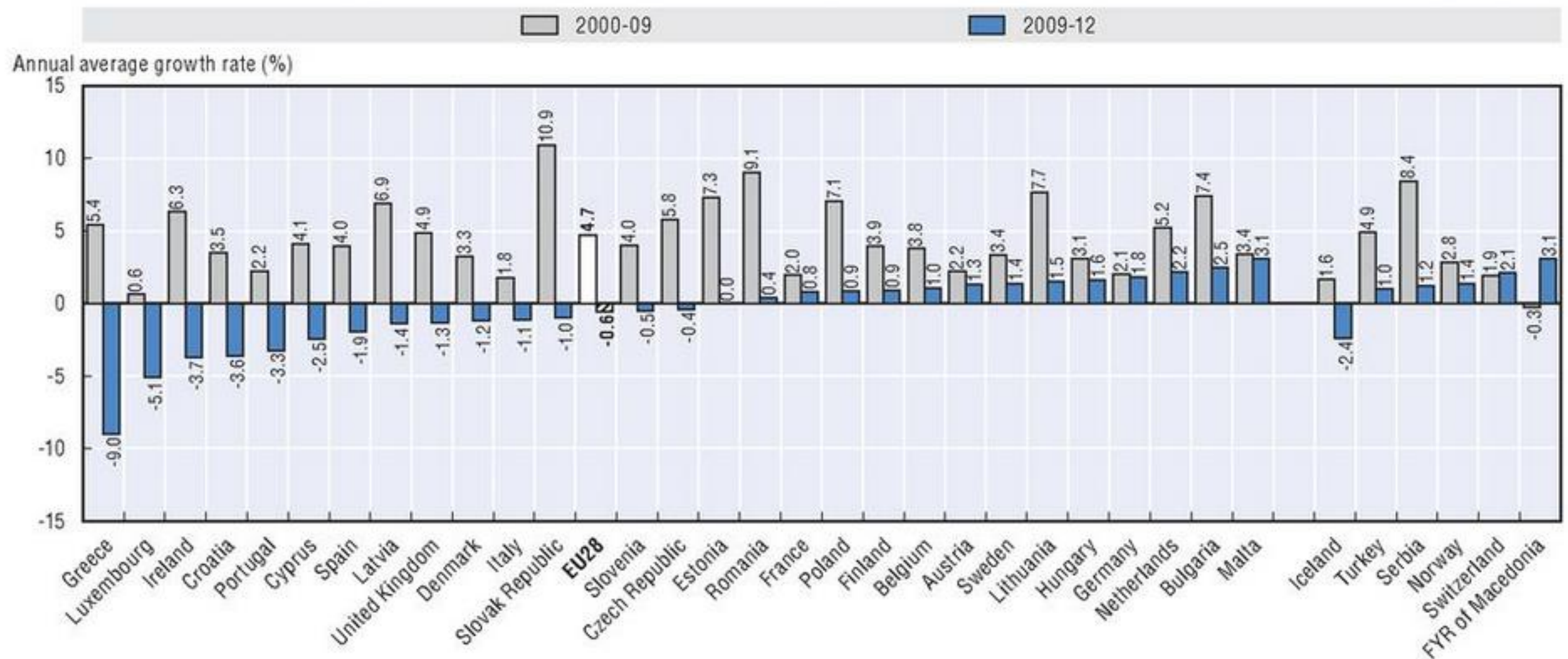
- **Demographic Challenge:** Ageing population
- **Evolution in Health Risk Factors:** Rise in living and educational standards, and technology, has led to rise in chronic conditions and obesity
- **Health Workforce:** By 2020 there will be a shortage of 1 million health care workers
- **Patient-Centered Care:** healthcare pathway has become more complex, with focus shifting to prevention rather than treatment
- **Economic Pressure:** health budgets under severe pressure but governments recognize importance of health spend



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Impact of economic crisis on health spending



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>; Eurostat Statistics Database; WHO Global Health Expenditure Database.

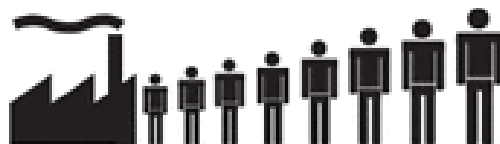
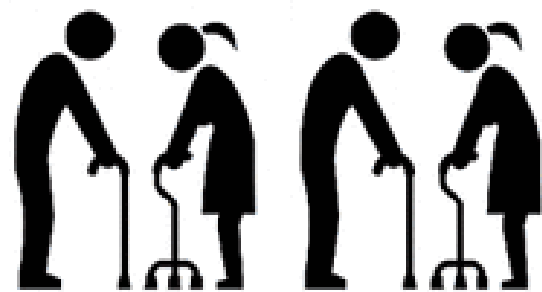
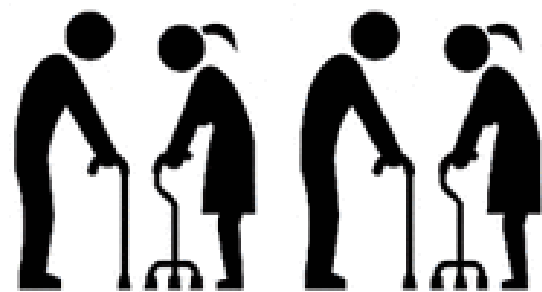
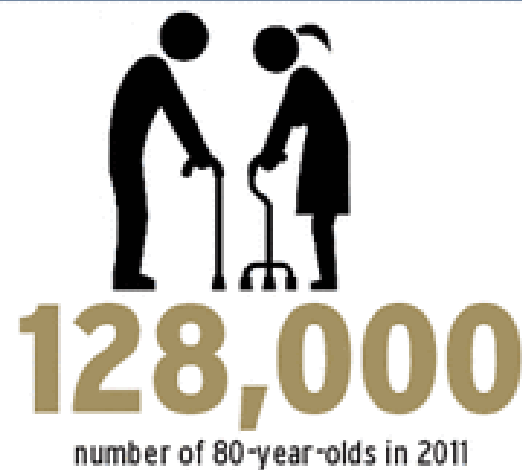


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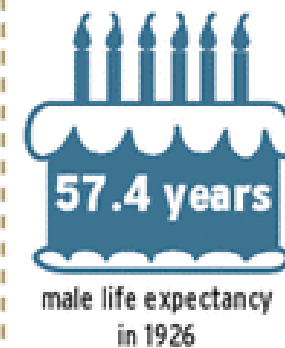
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Ageing Populations

FACING THE FACTS: THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



Source: CSO population and labour force projections, 2016-2046



increase in the number of children at primary school age by 2021

Irish Examiner Graphics

“(there is a) desire among European community pharmacists to advance the pharmacy profession and community pharmacy practice in order to meet patients’ needs and current challenges in healthcare. European governments are seeking to optimise the use of medicines, achieve better value from pharmacotherapy of patients, and reduce the overall cost of health care. Making better use of the competences of European pharmacists can help them achieve these goals”

European Community Pharmacy Blueprint, PGEU 2012



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PGEU and Pharmacy Education

■ Professional Qualifications Directive Review

- PGEU is working with other stakeholders to influence the future of pharmacy education
- One channel is PHARMINE – Pharmacy Education in Europe
- 2015: revision of the core subjects that must be studied
- 2016: Revision of the Annex “Knowledge & Skills”
- Working with EAFP to propose ambitious inclusion of new subjects such as pharmacovigilance, biopharmaceuticals, social studies.
- Key factor: demonstration of evidence base for inclusion



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PGEU: Working for the future of the profession

- Sharing Practice Developments
- Falsified Medicines Directive: medicines authentication system to ensure against counterfeits
- European Professional Card Legislation: making it easier for pharmacists to practice in other member states
- Medicine Shortages: key stakeholder in addressing this issue
- EU Projects: participation to highlight the role of pharmacists – eHealth, Cancer, Chronic Disease, SelfCare Projects, Workforce Planning, Antibiotics Awareness



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PGEU: Sharing Practice Developments

- **Service Development:** Pharmacist-led vaccination
- **Information Sharing:** Dossier Pharmaceutique
- **Self Care:** Pharmacist added value
- **Interprofessional Collaboration:** Pharmacists & GPs in Netherlands



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Services – Vaccination

- Key public health service where pharmacists can contribute to reaching target vaccination rates
- Accessibility is a key motivator for vaccination
- More cost-effective for the health system through pharmacy
- Often requires a simple legislation change to facilitate it



- Ireland has led the way in Europe with 41,000 vaccinated in Ireland in 14/15 season



- NHS recently announced development of NHS funded pharmacist-led flu vaccination
- Portugal piloting vaccination with government funding



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Shared Information: Dossier Pharmaceutique



- Introduced in France in 2007 by new law
- The Dossier Pharmaceutique records all medicines in last 4 months*, either prescribed by a doctor or recommended by a pharmacist.
- It helps to reduce risk of interaction and eliminate medicines no longer required
- Everybody is entitled to the service for free
- Similar service being piloted in Belgium

*21 years for vaccines records and 3 years for biological medicines



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Self Care & the Pharmacist

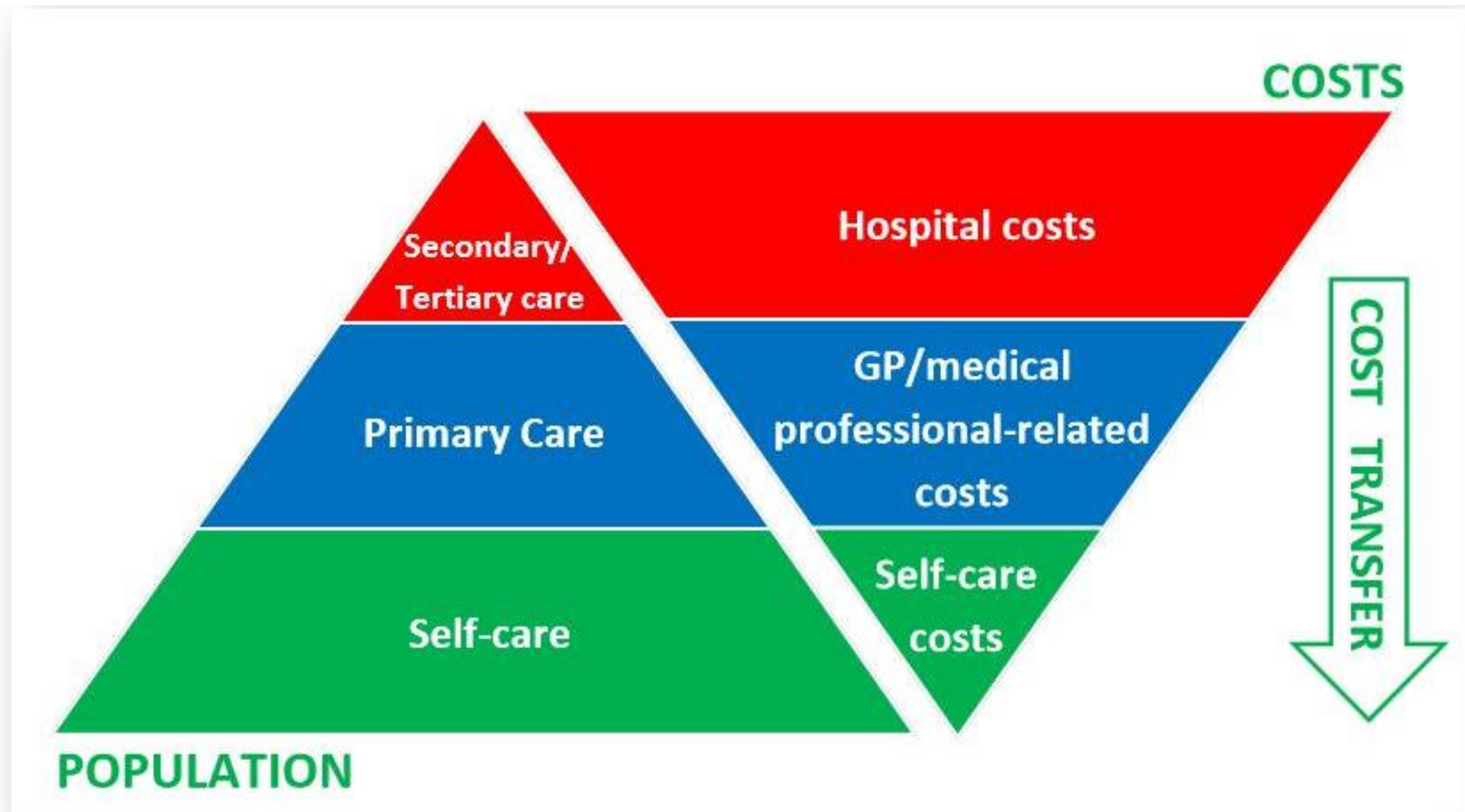
- All European health systems face major cost control challenges, which are likely to become more acute as the population ages and as a result of technological change;
- Significant costs are attached to treatment of minor ailments by GPs and in hospitals;
- Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare resource in every European country and could do more to help relieve the burden on other healthcare providers.
- Self Care adds value to what the pharmacist can offer patients



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Cost benefits of Self Care



Two Studies



- UK study looked at cost of treatment of minor ailments by GPs
- Study found 51.4m consultations involving minor ailments alone
- 18% of GP workload is accounted for by minor ailments alone
- The treatment of minor ailments costs the NHS circa £2 billion
- 80% of costs are for GPs' time equating to £1.5 billion



- French study assumed hypothetical **switch of 7 ingredients to non-prescription status** which had non-prescription status in other EU countries;
- The study measured the economic impact of the hypothetical switches. It estimated potential savings of **EUR 130 million**.

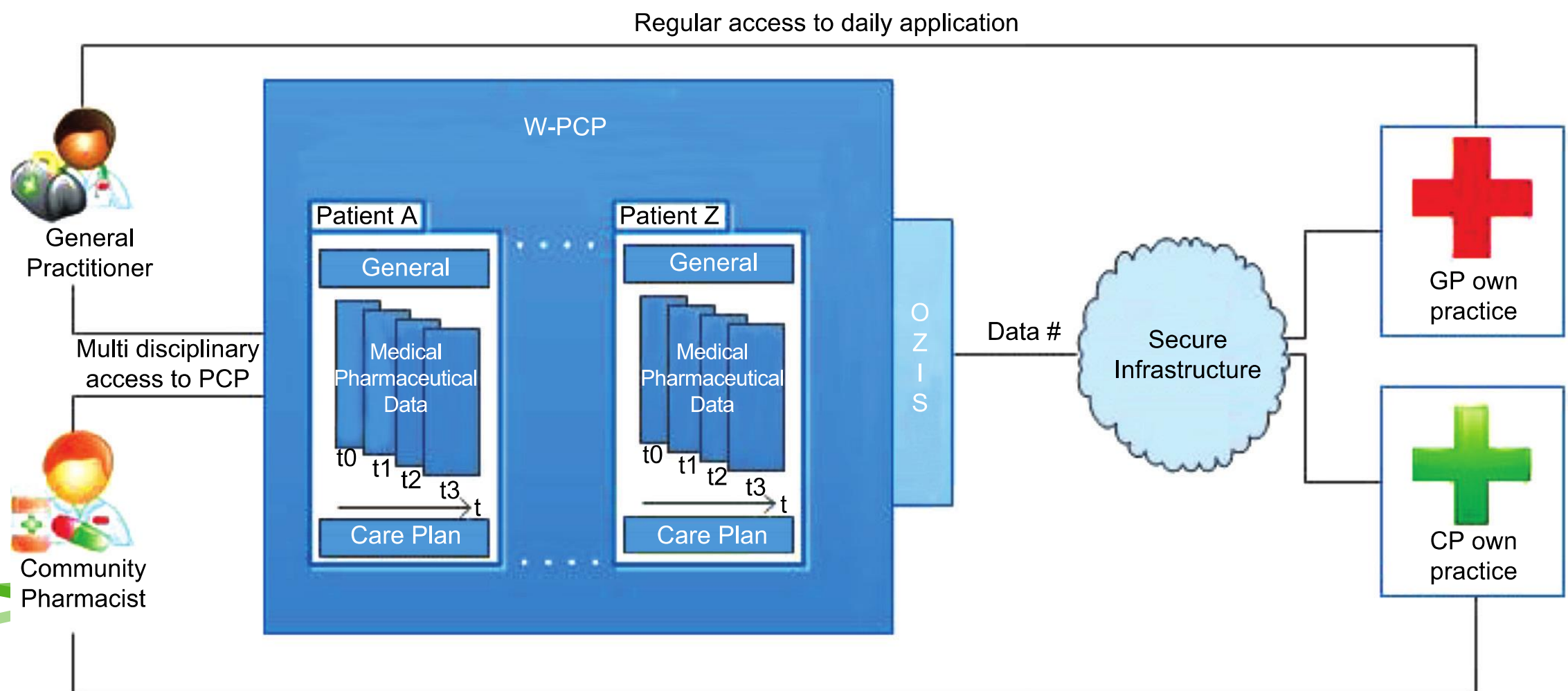


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Netherlands: Collaboration with GPs

- Community pharmacists collaborate with GP practices in same catchment area, where they partner in “pharmacotherapeutic councils” to promote rational prescribing
- Web-based pharmaceutical care plan to facilitate collaboration



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Influencing the future of pharmacy

- Work collaboratively with health stakeholders (Governments, insurers, manufacturers, other health professionals, pharmacy associations & regulators) to:
 - widen pharmacy's role in improving public health
 - Raise awareness among public and other health professionals of accessibility and wide range of services offered by pharmacists
 - Better integrate pharmacy into primary care systems
 - Provide evidence base for change
- Effect change in legislation where necessary to enable pharmacy services
- Ensure pharmacy education equips pharmacists for the future



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What do pharmacists need to do?

- Embrace new developments: from medicines-centered to patient-centered practice
- Develop skills and attitudes as enablers to assume different functions “*seven star pharmacist*” through education and reflection on experience
- Perpetual innovation –responsiveness to needs of those we care for
- Be cognisant of impact of economic challenges
- Win political support to ensure value of pharmacy is recognized



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THANK YOU

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