



Access to Medicines: The right to health for all

Ella Weggen, 16 June 2020

About Wemos

The logo for Wemos, featuring the word "wemos" in a blue, rounded, lowercase sans-serif font. The letter "o" is replaced by a green microphone icon with a yellow dollar sign inside its circular body.

▶ 0:00 / 1:28 Wemos is an independent civil society organization. ⌵ ⚙️ 📺 📱 📶 🔍

Content

1. What about access to medicines worldwide?
2. Errors in the system that need to be addressed
3. Examples of our work:
 - Research “Overpriced”: Dutch public funding of medical R&D
 - Networks
 - Political and public debates
 - Lobby & Advocacy
4. What can insurers do?

Access to medicines worldwide

A universal human right

Everyone has the right to equal opportunities for good health and equal access to healthcare and medicines. However, the current system is increasingly leading to unequal access to affordable medicines.

- More than two billion people worldwide have no access to the medicines they need.
- About 100 million people fall into poverty every year due to costs for medicines (WHO estimate).



Access to medicines worldwide

A universal human right

The Economist, May 2019:

“It has taken [such] rich-world dramas to force the unaffordability of medicines to the top of the global health agenda, even though poorer countries have complained about it for decades.”

Costly medicines

The global battle over high drug prices

Western countries, as well as poor ones, are demanding transparency in the cost of drugs



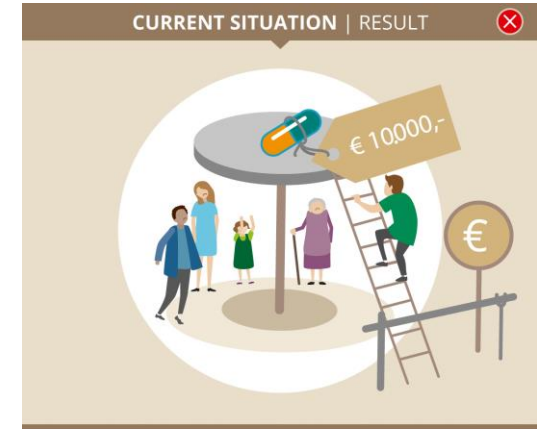
Business >
May 21st 2019



Current flaws in the system

that need to be addressed

1. Pharmaceutical companies are not transparent about the prices and costs of medicines
2. Pharmaceutical companies creatively use existing regulations
3. The development of medicines is partly financed with public money, without conditions regarding price or accessibility
4. In the international market, governments have insufficient control over the pricing of medicines



What needs to change?

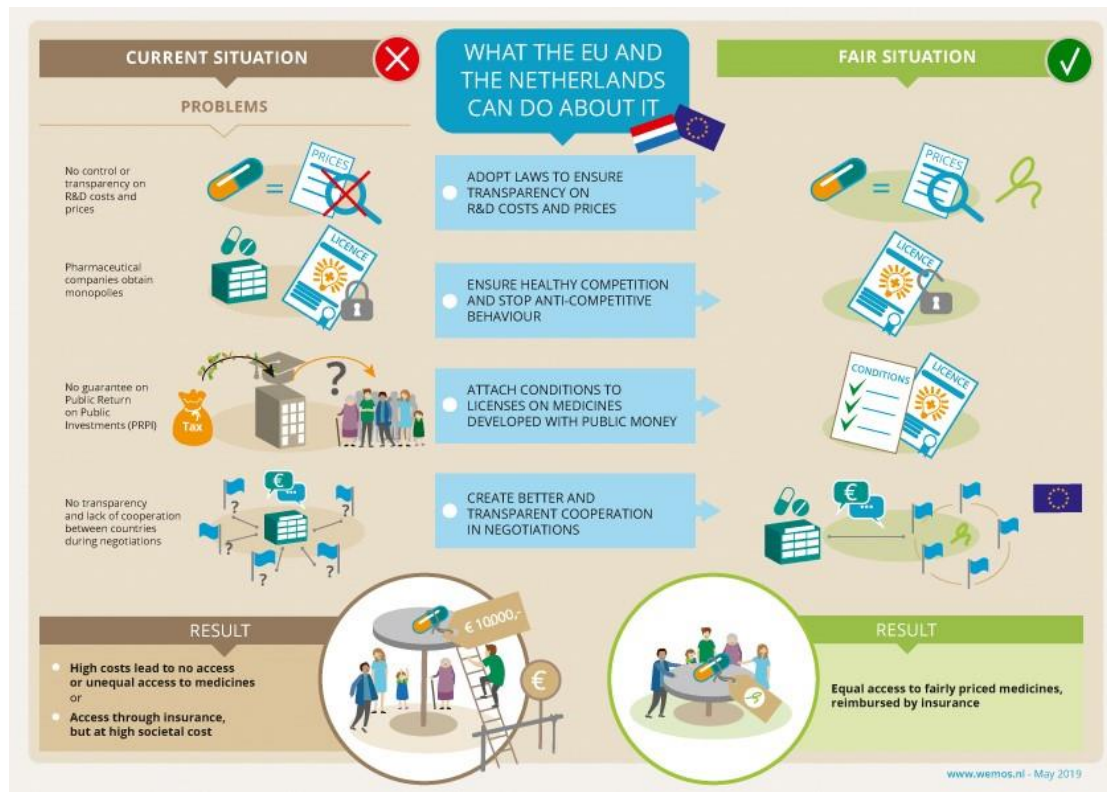
to realise access and affordability of medicines

1. Transparency about the costs of R&D and prices of medicines.
2. Healthy competition. Prevent monopolies and abuse
3. Condition public financing
4. More cooperation between countries



Current flaws in the system & What needs to change?

to realise access and affordability of medicines



Examples of our work

Knowledge building and sharing



Examples of our work

Networks in NL and EU



European Alliance for
Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines



Examples of our work

Political and public debates



Wemos in panel discussion at European Patients' Rights Day in the European Parliament (February 2019)



Debate 'Farma's other Futures' with Dutch health insurers' representative René van Duuren (May 2019, Rode Hoed)

Examples of our work

Lobby & advocacy



Examples of our work

Media & communication

Voorpagina Nieuws & Achtergrond
compleet

Tusk wil banencarrousel al voor de zomer rond hebben

Trump benoemt Patrick Shanahan als minister van Defensie



Wemos in De Volkskrant, 10 May 2019

'Overheidsgeld wordt jackpot voor farmaceuten' 'Duurste medicijn is er dankzij subsidies'

Door ONZE REDACTIE

3 uur geleden in BINNENLAND

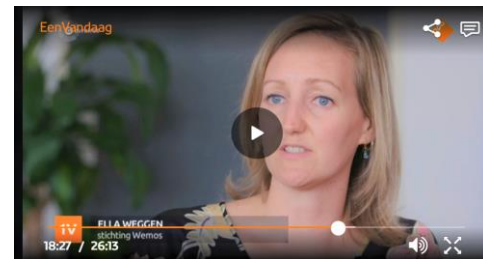
Binnenkort komt een nieuw Zwitsers medicijn op de markt waarmee jonge patiëntjes met een zeldzame spierziekte met één behandeling blijvend zouden kunnen genezen. Kosten 1,9 miljoen euro. Een absurd hoog bedrag, vindt juriste Ella Weggen, want ook overheden en goede doelen hebben geïnvesteerd in de ontwikkeling.



Wemos in De Telegraaf, 8 August 2019



Wemos in 'EenVandaag', 1 July and 3 September 2019



Wemos in 'Kassa', 2 November 2019

Recent work on COVID-19

Promoting non-exclusive licensing in Covid-19 technology pool

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small globe of the Earth. The hand is painted with vibrant colors: the fingers are a deep blue, while the palm and wrist areas are covered in a mix of green and yellow, suggesting a natural or organic theme. The hand is positioned as if cradling the globe, which shows the Americas. The background is a plain, light blue.

Solidarity Call to Action

What can insurers do?

NL and global

In the Netherlands

Insurers are major clients (purchasers) of pharmaceutical companies. As such they can play an important role in the accountability of these companies.

- Court case Menzis against AstraZeneca
- Public return on public investment
- Support compulsory licensing
- Support pharmaceutical compounding

At global level

Insurers are investors in pharmaceutical companies. They can:

- Stimulate solidarity
- Promote non-exclusive licensing
- Use their power as shareholders (and payers)





Questions?

Ella.weggen@wemos.nl

Follow us:

www.twitter.com/wemos

www.facebook.com/wemosnl

www.linkedin.com/company/wemos