



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

OFFICE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENTS

JSIS - Sickness and accident insurance

**21/11/2017**

### **2018: the electronic medical prescription for medicines in Belgium**

Sometime in the spring of 2018 (date to be confirmed by the Belgian authorities), the electronic medical prescription for medicines, which since the beginning of 2017 has gradually begun to be introduced in Belgium, will become the norm.

#### **What is it?**

Instead of writing a medical prescription on paper, the doctor will enter the prescribed medicines into a computer system shared with pharmacists. As a first step, you will receive a "paper proof" which includes a bar code. You should then present this bar code to the pharmacy which dispenses the medicines. The "paper proof" will gradually disappear. At the moment, in order to access the electronic prescription, the pharmacist simply reads your national registration number which appears on the chip of your identity document.

Today, not all the available types of identity documents in Belgium have – at this point - the chip necessary for this system. This does not pose a problem; until everyone is "equipped" with such a chip card, the paper prescription will remain possible.

#### **What does it mean for you?**

**You have a Belgian identity card.** Everything is in order for you. The same applies for your children if they have either the ISI+ card if less than 12 years old, or the Kids-Id card for those older than 12.

**You have a "foreign" identity card,** type A, B, C, D, E, E+, F, F+, H. These cards also contain your national registration number on a chip. Everything is in order for you.

**You have a "special" identity card.** This card does not (yet) have the chip; it is therefore not compatible with the new electronic prescription system. Until a change in these cards or in the system is implemented, you will simply continue to make use of the paper prescription, as usual. Negotiations are in progress between DG HR and the competent Belgian authorities and you will be informed in due course of the development of this issue.

Please note that you also have the choice to give back your special card and to register at the town hall directly in order to obtain a foreign card. You can find all the information on this procedure on the portal Staff Matters at the following address:

**You are visiting? You have just arrived? You don't have or don't yet have one of the documents mentioned above?** Don't worry! You will receive the usual paper prescription, as "before".

November 2017: the Belgian services responsible for this project have confirmed that to date the new system sometimes "blocks" the access for patients not covered by the INAMI. This issue should be resolved shortly.

### **About the supporting documents**

Nothing changes for the supporting documents to be attached to your claim for reimbursement.

Indeed, the name of the prescribing physician will continue to appear, as before, on the receipts/invoices of the pharmacy.