

2026 Report on Expenses and Income from France's National Health Insurance
Cost-saving measures that jeopardize the health of the French population

Leem has reviewed the “Expenses and Income” report released by the French National Health Insurance Fund (Cnam) on Tuesday, June 24. Among the 60 proposed measures to reduce the health insurance deficit, those targeting the pharmaceutical sector alone are expected to generate €6 billion in savings by 2030, according to the report's authors.

While we acknowledge the government's need to restore public finances, we regret that the efficiency levers proposed by our sector for over a year have not been more seriously considered. More concerning, the solutions and mechanisms put forward by Cnam would directly undermine France's health sovereignty and reduce patients' access to care.

Shared goals, distorted methods

While we share common ground on the need to improve the proper use of medicines and the relevance of prescriptions (notably through prescribing support software), we strongly disagree with several recommendations based on what we believe are flawed analyses. This is all the more regrettable as industry-led initiatives on proper use have shown positive results.

An ideological stance: medicines are seen as too costly relative to their health benefits

The report suggests that medicines no longer deliver sufficient therapeutic value to justify their cost. We must stress that all medicines undergo rigorous evaluation by the French National Authority for Health (HAS), which serves as the basis for pricing negotiations between the Economic Committee for Health Products (CEPS) and the pharmaceutical industry. Extending real-world data collection could help address uncertainties around a treatment's effectiveness.

Specifically, the accusation of “excessive pricing policies” for cancer treatments, the questioning of their therapeutic value relative to costs, and the proposal to reassess the reimbursement of drugs lacking survival data are all sweeping denials of both the clinical benefit these therapies provide and the long-term efficiencies they bring to our health system.

Moreover, further price cuts on products rated ASMR 4 and 5 ¹would only worsen France's competitiveness in an already turbulent international environment, especially as French prices are among the lowest in Europe.

¹ The ASMR (Improvement of Medical Service Rendered) can be classified as major (ASMR I), significant (ASMR II), moderate (ASMR III), minor (ASMR IV), and none (ASMR V).