



## Patient having a formal participation role in health policy (composite score on 1-3 scale) (S-31)

### 1.1.1 Documentation sheet

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Description                 | Patients' formal participation role in health policy (e.g. decision-making bodies or processes)  |
| Calculation                 | This indicator used a composite measure based on responses to five questions, assessing whether patients have a formal role in: (1) licensing of pharmaceuticals, (2) coverage or reimbursement, (3) health technology assessment, (4) decisions related to service planning, and (5) definition of public health objectives. Countries are scored on a 1-3 scale depending on the number of areas in which patients have a formal role: countries with a formal role in none or one area were assigned a score of one, countries with formal roles in two or three areas were assigned a score of two, and countries with four or five areas were assigned a score of three.  |
| Rationale                   | The indicator on patients' formal participation role in health policy captures the institutionalisation of patient voices in decision-making processes across different areas of the health system. <sup>1</sup> . The ability of people using the health system to make decisions and influence the care they receive is essential to a people-centred health system and to hold the government accountable. Citizens' participation in health policy requires governments to pro-actively engage with a wide range of population groups and stakeholders through institutionalised mechanisms. The extent to which patient voices are institutionalised in macro decision-making processes across different health system areas reflects the importance given to users of the health system in designing the system. |
| Data source                 | OECD Health Systems Characteristics Survey 2012, 2016 and 2023.  |
| Technical definitions       | This indicator assesses whether patients have a formal role in: (1) licensing of pharmaceuticals, (2) coverage or reimbursement, (3) health technology assessment, (4) decisions related to service planning, and (5) definition of public health objectives.  |
| International comparability | Several EU countries (but not all) have responded to the OECD Health Systems Characteristics Survey.   |
| Limitations                 | This indicator is based on self-reported key informant data. The type and mix of key informants providing information varied over time.  |
| Dimension                   | Sustainability   |
| Related indicators          |  |
| Reviewers                   | Gaetan Lafortune (OECD)  |



### 1.1.2 Results

In 2023, Belgian citizens or patient organisations are involved in three areas of health policy making: coverage or reimbursement, health technology assessment and definitions of public health objectives (i.e. score of 2). The score remained stable across the different survey years (2012 and 2016; Table 1). However, in the previous surveys, citizens or patient organisations were only involved in two areas of health policy making: coverage or reimbursement and the definitions of public health objectives. Belgium's scores remained similar to the EU-14 and EU-27 average scores over time (2023: 1.8 and 1.7, respectively; Table 2).

**Table 1 – Patients' formal participation role in health policy (composite score on 1-3 scale)**

|                | 2012 | 2016 | 2023 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Belgium</b> | 2    | 2    | 2    |
| <b>EU-14</b>   | 1.8  | 1.9  | 1.8  |
| <b>EU-27</b>   | 1.7  | 1.8  | 1.7  |

**Table 2 – Patients' formal participation role in health policy in 2023: international comparison**

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Austria                     | 2          |
| Belgium                     | 2          |
| Bulgaria                    | 2          |
| Czech Republic              | 3          |
| Estonia                     | 2          |
| Finland                     | 1          |
| France                      | 3          |
| Germany                     | 2          |
| Hungary                     | 1          |
| Ireland                     | 2          |
| Latvia                      | 1          |
| Lithuania                   | 1          |
| Luxembourg                  | 1          |
| Netherlands                 | 2          |
| Poland                      | 2          |
| Slovak Republik             | 1          |
| Slovenia                    | 1          |
| Spain                       | 2          |
| Sweden                      | 1          |
| <b>EU-14 (10 countries)</b> | <b>1.8</b> |
| <b>EU-27 (19 countries)</b> | <b>1.7</b> |

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <span style="color: green;">■</span>  | Score of 3 |
| <span style="color: orange;">■</span> | Score of 2 |
| <span style="color: red;">■</span>    | Score of 1 |



### Key points

- In 2023, Belgium scores two (scale 1-3) for patients' formal participation role in health policy. Citizens or patient organisations are involved in three areas of health policy making: coverage or reimbursement, health technology assessment and definitions of public health objectives.
- Belgium's scores remained similar to the EU-14 and EU-27 average scores over the past decade.

### References

1. OECD. Health for the People, by the People: Building People-centred Health Systems. Paris: OECD Publishing; 2021.