



## 13. PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE A GLOBAL MEDICAL RECORD (GMR) WITH A GENERAL PRACTITIONER (QC-1)

### 13.1. Documentation sheet

<b>Description</b>	Percentage of persons who have a global medical record (GMR) with a general practitioner (GP)
<b>Calculation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerator: number of insured persons with a global medical record or a electronic global medical record</li> <li>Denominator: all insured persons</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale</b>	Since 2001, the global medical record (GMR) is implemented in Belgium. Each patient can ask a (unique) general practitioner to manage his/her medical information (except in nursing homes where GP are designated). By leaving the coordination of medical care to one central person, the quality of care is expected to increase. Referral to and communication with other care providers can become more efficient, and double investigations or contrasting treatments can be avoided. Since 2016, the electronic global medical record is implemented in Belgium.
<b>Data source</b>	IMA-IMA (Atlas); INAMI–RIZIV
<b>Technical definitions</b>	<p>INAMI-RIZIV billing codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GMR codes: 102771, 102793, 102395, 101371, 101393, completed with</li> <li>eGMR codes (since 2016): 101312, 101334, 103574, 103596.</li> </ul> <p>A distinction is made <b>between chronic versus non-chronic patients</b>. Status for persons with a chronic illness in IMA-AIM database: entitlement is observed through data from the InterMutualistic Agency (IMA-AIM), variables pp3015, pp3016 or pp3017. If the value for one of these 3 variables is equal to 1 or 2, the individual has an entitlement and is assumed to suffer from a chronic illness.</p>
<b>International comparability</b>	<p>Limitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>specific indicator to the Belgian system.</li> <li>Nomenclature codes are used as a proxy to calculate the present indicator. The patient retains the GMR until the end of the 2nd year following the last payment of the GMR to the GP. For instance if the patient opens a GMR 13 March 2015, he keeps his GMR until 31 December 2017, even if he has no contact with GP. This limitation main affects the young patients.</li> </ul>
<b>Performance dimension</b>	Quality (continuity); Quality (effectiveness); Efficiency
<b>Related indicators</b>	Percentage of GPs using electronic global medical record (eGMR) through MyCareNet - Share of electronic global medical record among all global medical record (GMR+EGMR) (not calculated in this report, see <a href="https://www.healthybelgium.be/en/health-system-performance-assessment">https://www.healthybelgium.be/en/health-system-performance-assessment</a> or <sup>1</sup> for results)



### 13.2. Results

#### Overall population

In 2003, the percentage of insured persons with a GMR in GP was 32.1% and reached 77.9% in 2019 (see Table 24). There is an increase of GMR coverage of 17.8 points of percentage between 2014 and 2019. The coverage of GMR by GP is increasing continuously over the time (see Figure 34). Differences can be observed between regions and provinces but tend to decrease over time. In Flanders, more than three quarters of the insured

persons are covered whereas 73% in Wallonia and 60% in Brussels region in 2019 (see Figure 34 and Table 24).

The coverage of global medical record by general practitioner is higher for women (80.6% in 2019) than men (75.1% in 2019, see Table 25). Differences in coverage can also be observed by age group (see Table 25). Older insured persons are better covered (> 90%) than insured people (0 to 44 years: min 61% - max 74%) (see Table 25). People with an increased reimbursement have higher rate of coverage than people without (see Table 25).

**Table 24 – Percentage of insured population with a Global Medical Record (GMR), by regions and provinces (2003-2019)**

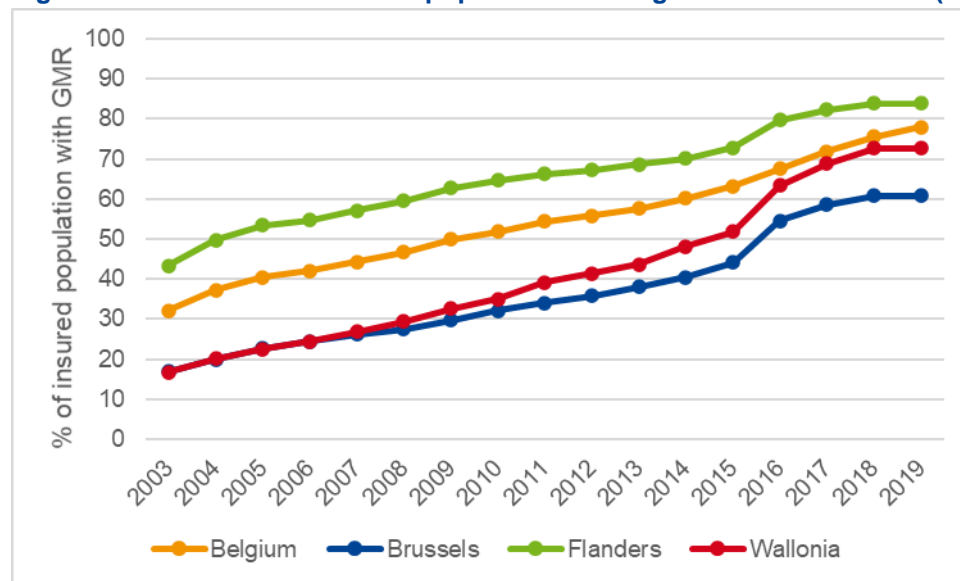
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Diff 2014- 2019
<b>Overall</b>																			
<b>Belgium</b>		32.1	37.2	40.4	42.0	44.3	46.8	49.9	51.9	54.4	55.8	57.6	60.1	63.2	67.5	71.9	75.5	77.9	17.8
<b>Regions</b>	Brussels	16.9	19.9	22.7	24.5	26.2	27.5	29.8	32.1	34.1	35.8	38.0	40.4	44.2	54.6	58.6	60.8	60.8	20.4
	Flanders	43.3	49.7	53.5	54.8	57.2	59.6	62.8	64.6	66.2	67.3	68.7	70.1	72.8	79.7	82.2	83.9	83.9	13.8
	Wallonia	16.8	20.2	22.6	24.4	26.9	29.5	32.6	35.0	39.2	41.4	43.7	48.1	51.8	63.3	68.8	72.6	72.6	24.5
<b>Chronic illness status</b>																			
<b>Belgium</b>		NA										75.7	78.0	81.3	84.4	86.6	88.3	12.6	
<b>Regions</b>	Brussels											60.0	63.1	67.4	71.7	74.3	75.7	15.6	
	Flanders											83.6	85.5	87.9	89.9	91.4	92.5	8.9	
	Wallonia											64.9	67.9	72.4	77.0	80.8	83.5	18.6	
<b>Not chronic illness status</b>																			



<b>Belgium</b>	NA	59.1	62.2	66.6	71.1	74.8	77.3	18.2
<b>Regions</b>	Brussels	39.5	43.3	48.5	53.8	57.8	60.0	20.5
	Flanders	69.2	71.9	75.5	79.0	81.5	83.3	14.1
	Wallonia	47.0	50.6	56.0	62.3	67.9	71.8	24.8

Source: atlas IMA-IMA; NA=Not available because the RIZIV-INAMI chronic illness status has been introduced end 2013.

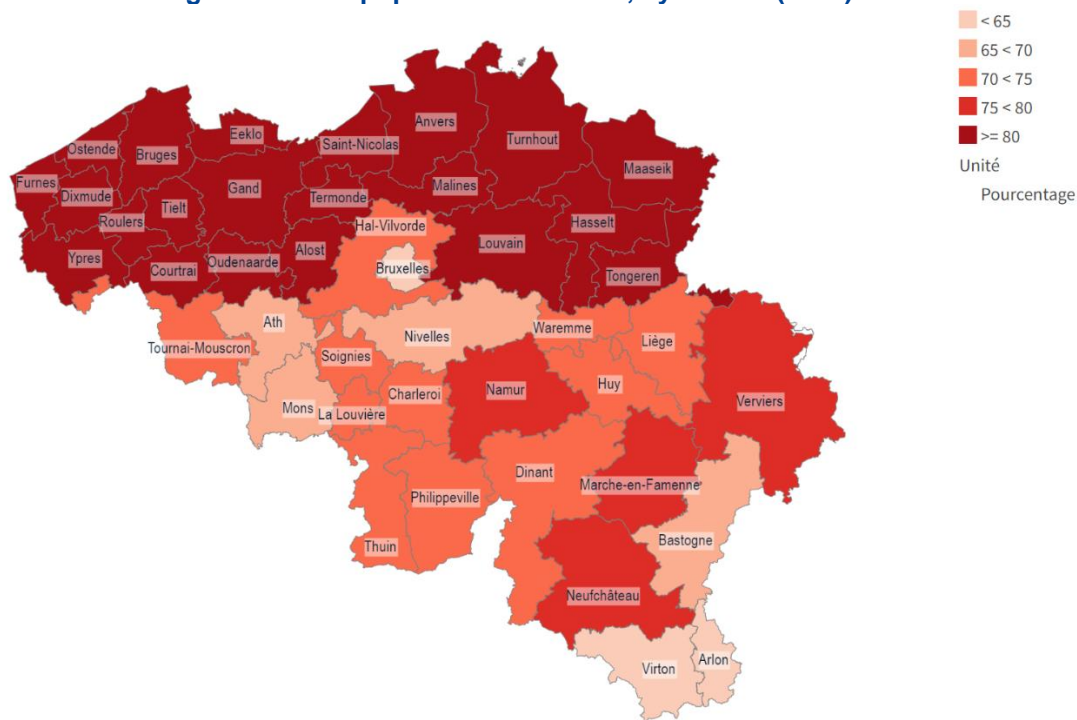
**Figure 34 – Evolution of insured population with a global medical record (GMR), by region and by year (2003-2019)**



Source: IMA-IMA, figure: KCE



Figure 35 – Percentage of insured population with GMR, by district (2019)



Data and figure: IMA-AIM atlas

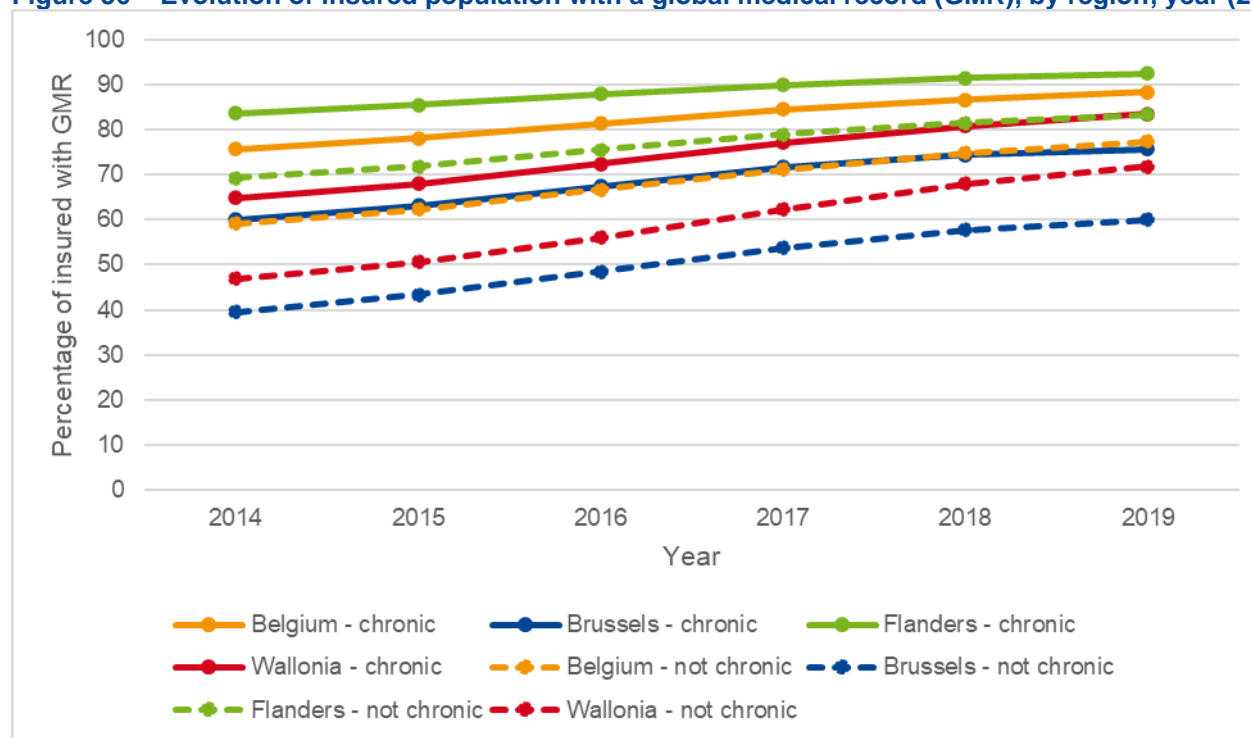


**By RIZIV-INAMI chronic illness status**

In 2014, the percentage of insured persons with a GMR and with chronic illness status was 75.7% and reached 88.3% in 2019 (+ 12.6 points of percentage) (see Table 24). Among the persons without chronic illness status, the GMR coverage is lower (77.3% in 2019) but the increase between 2014 and 2019 is higher than in the persons entitled to the chronic illness status (+ 18.2 points of percentage). The differences of percentage of insured with a GMR by regions are lower in the chronic persons than in

the non-chronic persons but in both sub-groups Flanders shows a higher GMR coverage (see Figure 36). There are also differences of GMR coverage between districts but they are more important among patients without chronic status. Indeed, among patients with chronic status, GMR coverage is above 80% in most districts, except in Brussels, leper, Mons and Thuin. For non-chronic patients, the differences of GMR coverage between districts are much more important but Brussels, leper, Mons and Thuin also report the lowest GMR coverage (Figure 38).

**Figure 36 – Evolution of insured population with a global medical record (GMR), by region, year (2014-2019) and chronic illness status**





As said above, the percentage of insured population with a GMR is higher in persons with INAMI-RIZIV chronic illness status than the persons without chronic illness status. In general, the same observation is done by gender, age group and status of increased reimbursement. However in the oldest (65+), the non-chronic persons have a better GMR coverage than the persons entitled to the chronic status (see Figure 37). The difference of

percentage of insured persons with a GMR between chronic status is the most important in the younger (0-4 years: 72.7% chronic vs not chronic 60.8%), the male (chronic 86.2% vs not chronic 74.6%) and persons without increased reimbursement status (chronic 89.0% vs not chronic 77.3%) (see Table 25).

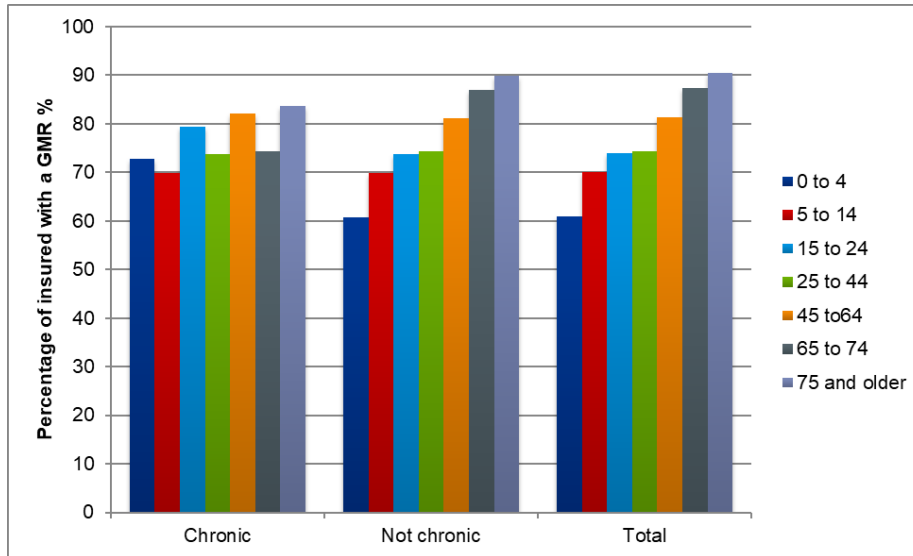
**Table 25 – Percentage of insured population with a Global Medical Record (GMR), by chronic status, gender, age category and entitlement to increased reimbursement (2019)**

		Chronic illness status	Not chronic illness status	Diff chronic – not chronic	Total*
<b>Belgium</b>		<b>88.3</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>77.9</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Female	89.9	80.0	9.9	80.6
	Male	86.2	74.6	11.6	75.1
<b>Age category</b>	0-4	72.7	60.8	11.9	60.9
	5-14	69.8	69.8	0.0	70.1
	15-24	79.4	73.7	5.7	73.9
	25-44	73.7	74.4	-0.7	74.4
	45-64	82.1	81.2	1.0	81.4
	65-74	74.4	87.0	-12.6	87.3
	75 and older	83.6	89.9	-6.3	90.4
<b>Increased reimbursement</b>	Yes	87.9	79.3	8.6	81.1
	No	89.0	77.3	11.7	77.5

Source: IMA-IMA, \*IMA-AIM atlas



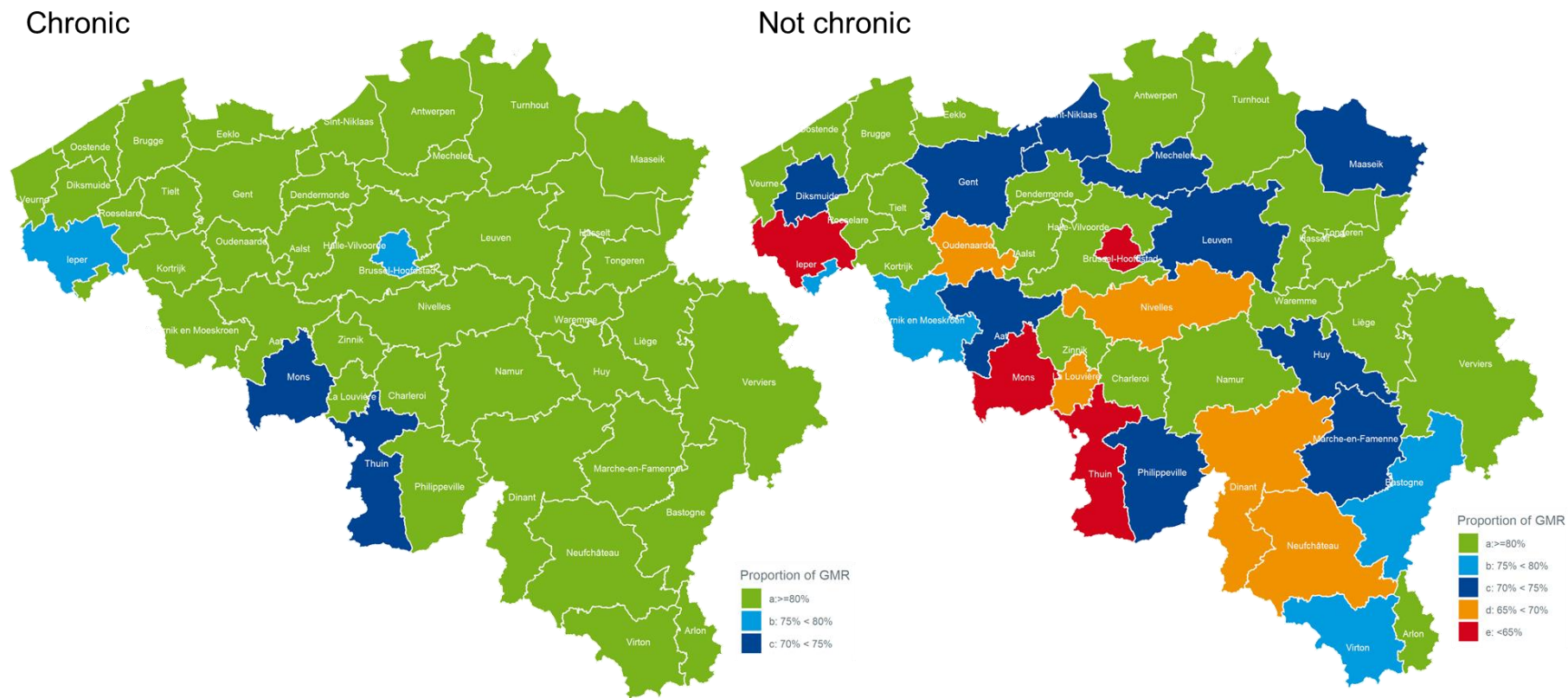
**Figure 37 – Percentage of insured population with a Global Medical Record (GMR), by chronic status and age category (2019)**



Data: IMA-IMA; figure: KCE



Figure 38 – Percentage of insured population with GMR, by district, by chronic illness status (2019) (left side: chronic; right side: not chronic)



Source: IMA-IMA; figure: KCE





### Key points

- **The percentage of insured population with a global medical record (GMR) in general practitioner is growing over the years from 60.1% in 2014 to 77.9% in 2019. The increase of GMR coverage is lower in the persons entitled to the chronic illness status (+ 12.6 points of percentage) than in the non-chronic persons (+ 18.2 points of percentage).**
- **The GMR coverage is higher in the chronic patients (2019: 88.3%) than in the non-chronic patients (2019: 77.9%), except for the oldest (and the 24-44 years).**
- **Differences in GMR coverage exist between regions (with Flanders having a better percentage than the others) but they tend to decrease over time. The same observation is made between the chronic and non-chronic patient groups.**

### References

1. Devos C, Cordon A, Lefèvre M, Obyn C, Renard F, Bouckaert N, et al. Performance of the Belgian health system – Report 2019. Health Services Research (HSR). Brussels: Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre (KCE); 2019 04/2019. KCE Reports 313 Available from: [https://kce.fgov.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/KCE\\_313C\\_Performance\\_Belgian\\_health\\_system\\_Report.pdf](https://kce.fgov.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/KCE_313C_Performance_Belgian_health_system_Report.pdf)