



Meyer-Harms R., Koppenhöfer S., Klaus J., Pütz C.

Digital Health Applications (DiGA) in Germany: Achievable Prices After Price Negotiation or a Decision of the Arbitration Board

Objectives

In Germany, SHI-insured people are entitled to healthcare services involving digital health applications (DiGA). The reimbursement prices (RP) of DiGA are negotiated with the National Association of Health Insurance Funds (GKV-SV) or decided by the arbitration board if the negotiation fails. Here, we surveyed the prices of DiGA after price negotiation or arbitral award and analyzed whether differences of prices can be explained by positive healthcare effect (pHE), indication or whether the reimbursement price was negotiated or determined by arbitral award.

Methodology

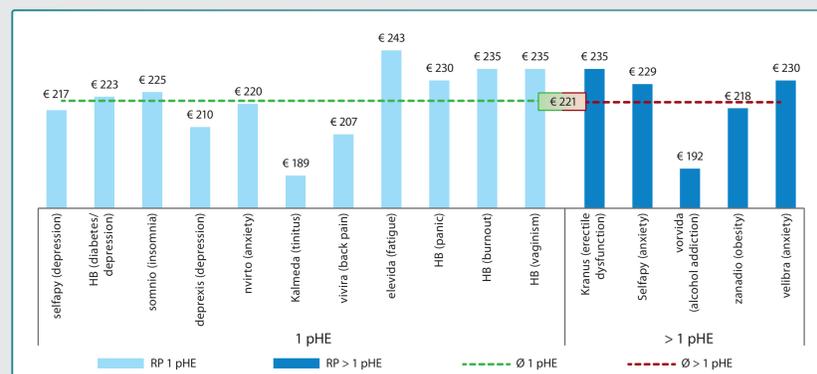
The DiGA directory of the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) and the corresponding arbitral awards were screened to select DiGA with a defined reimbursement price. DiGA, for which a reimbursement price was available on September 30th, 2023 were grouped by indication, positive healthcare effect and whether the reimbursement price resulted from a successful negotiation or was set by an arbitral award. Thereafter, price levels of these groups were compared.



Results

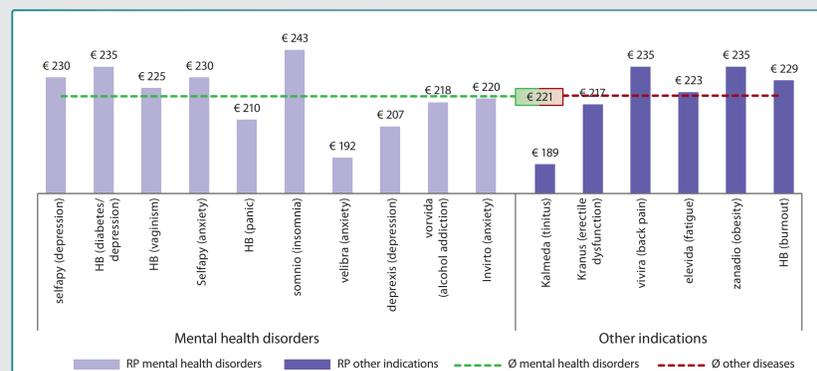
Currently (September 30th, 2023), reimbursement prices for 16 DiGA are available. Out of these 16 DiGA, 10 are indicated for mental health disorders and one each for neurological disorders, muscular disorders, metabolic diseases, diseases of the genitourinary system, for tinnitus and one for the category "Others". Furthermore, 8 out of 16 reimbursement prices were set by the arbitration board and 5 of 16 DiGA proved more than 1 positive healthcare effect. Overall, the reimbursement price varies between € 189 and € 243 per 90-day prescription with an average reimbursement price of € 221. A successful negotiation leads to a reimbursement price which is € 6 (+2.7%) higher than a reimbursement price set by the arbitration board.

1 Comparison of prices between DiGA with 1 positive healthcare effect (pHE) vs. DiGA with > 1 pHE



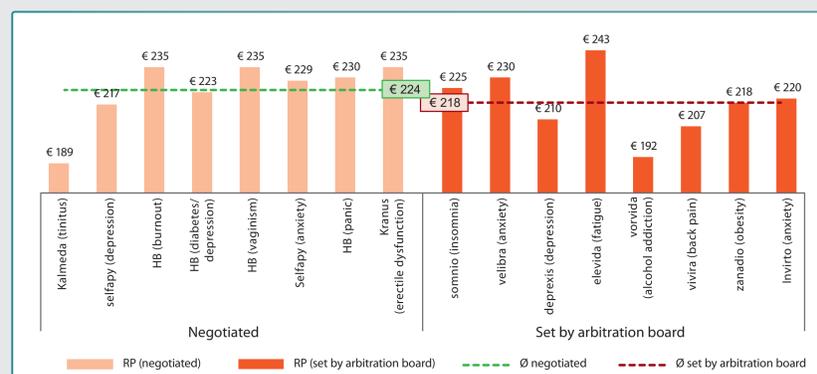
The average reimbursement price (RP) does not differ between DiGA, which proved 1 positive healthcare effect and DiGA which proved more than 1 positive healthcare effect (pHE).

2 Comparison of prices between DiGA for mental health disorders vs. DiGA for other indications



Regarding the indication, the reimbursement price (RP) does not differ between DiGA for mental health disorders and DiGA for all the other indications².

3 Comparison of prices between DiGA with a negotiated reimbursement price (RP) vs. DiGA whose RP has been set by the arbitration board



The average reimbursement price (RP) for DiGA which were negotiated successfully is € 224 compared to € 218 for those whose price has been set by the arbitration board.

1 HelloBetter (HB) Stress & Burnout is listed in this category, as it is listed for the ICD code Z73.

2 This comparison was chosen as initially most DiGA have been listed for mental health disorders and their price model forms the backdrop for consequent negotiations.

Conclusion

The number of positive healthcare effects, the indication and whether the price was set by the arbitration board has only a minute influence on the attainable price. The highest observable influence was observed for DiGA with a successful negotiation, although it was small. Consequently, the price corridor for DiGA seems to be narrowly set now at around € 221 per 90-day prescription. However, how new indications and innovative therapeutic approaches influence attainable prices remains to be seen.

References

- DiGA directory; date (September 30th, 2023); <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis>
- Arbitration board decisions for DiGA