

18.6.2018

## **Country specific information – FINLAND**

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## 1. Notifications for the Finnish ePrescription database

The ePrescription database includes all the necessary and current information that is needed in prescribing and delivering medicines. The ePrescription database contains pharmaceuticals (preparations with a Vnr number) and preparations without a Vnr number (preparations with a temporary special sales license and reimbursed emollients and reimbursed clinical nutrient preparations).

The content of the ePrescription database is covered in section 22 of the Act on Electronic Prescriptions (laki sähköisestä lääkemääräyksestä 61/2007). Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) maintains the ePrescription database. Finnish Medicines Agency (Fimea) delivers the information needed for identifying the preparations.

The content of the ePrescription database and the communication to the Kela is covered by section 8 of the Decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (485/2008).

The Pharmaceutical Information Centre provides the ePrescription database for Kela.

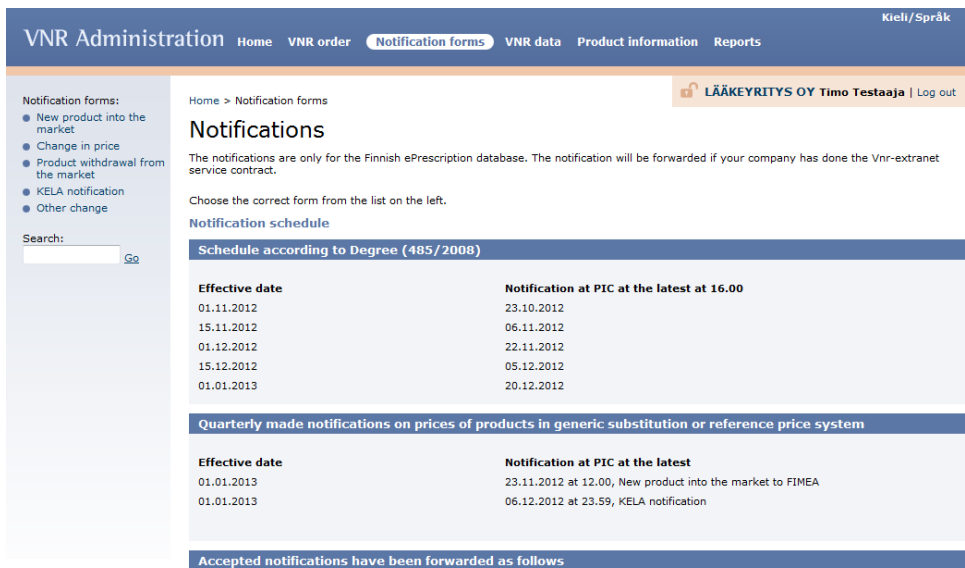
The holder of the marketing authorization, the manufacturer or the importer must communicate the wholesale prices of

- pharmaceuticals
- preparations with a temporary special sales license
- reimbursed emollients
- reimbursed clinical nutrients

to the Pharmaceutical Information Centre, which, under commission from Kela, serves as the technical administrator of the database in respect to pharmaceuticals.

The information must be communicated no later than 8 working days before the 1st and 15th of the month in question by 4 pm Finnish time. The more detailed communication schedule and instructions can be found in Vnr extranet service (<https://vnr.fi>).

All the notification forms can be filled in the Vnr extranet, Notification forms. (<https://vnr.fi>). From there you can choose the notification form needed on the left side of the page.



The screenshot shows the VNR Administration website interface. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'VNR order', 'Notification forms', 'VNR data', 'Product information', and 'Reports'. The 'Notification forms' section is active, showing a list of notification forms on the left sidebar and a main content area with the following information:

**Notifications**  
 The notifications are only for the Finnish ePrescription database. The notification will be forwarded if your company has done the Vnr-extranet service contract.  
 Choose the correct form from the list on the left.

**Notification schedule**

**Schedule according to Degree (485/2008)**

Effective date	Notification at PIC at the latest at 16.00
01.11.2012	23.10.2012
15.11.2012	06.11.2012
01.12.2012	22.11.2012
15.12.2012	05.12.2012
01.01.2013	20.12.2012

**Quarterly made notifications on prices of products in generic substitution or reference price system**

Effective date	Notification at PIC at the latest
01.01.2013	23.11.2012 at 12.00, New product into the market to FIMEA
01.01.2013	06.12.2012 at 23.59, KELA notification

Accepted notifications have been forwarded as follows

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The communicating party is responsible for the accuracy of the price information communicated.

In addition to the Vnr extranet service the “New product into the market” and “Product withdrawal from the market” -notifications must be communicated to the Fimea and the “Change in price” -notifications to the wholesaler in question, The Association of Finnish Pharmacies and to the University Pharmacy. Kela notifications must be made quarterly of the prices of substitutable pharmaceuticals and of pharmaceuticals covered by the reference price system.

Due to the upcoming Falsified Medicines Directive, a new **medicines verification notification** was introduced in the Vnr Service 18.6.2018. Pharmaceutical companies make this notification like other notifications. Pharmaceutical Information Centre delivers the information of the notifications to wholesalers and pharmacy/hospital pharmacy system suppliers to ensure efficient and reliable action.

### **Companies with a Vnr-extranet service contract**

The Pharmaceutical Information Centre will deliver the information in question to the University Pharmacy, the Association of Finnish Pharmacies, sales statistics (Finnish Pharmaceutical Data and IMS Health Finland), wholesalers (Oriola, Tamro, Magnum medical), the Social Insurance Institution of Finland, the Pharmaceutical pricing board and FIMEA on behalf of companies that have a Vnr-extranet service contract. Pharmaceutical Information Centre is responsible for the delivery of data to only those third parties mentioned above which are entitled to this information before it becomes public.

## **2. National article numbers in Finland**

The Nordic article numbers, Vnrs, are only allocated for **registered pharmaceuticals**. Please note that immunological veterinary medicines, sample medicines and radiopharmaceuticals don't need a Nordic article number in Finland.

All other products, such as reimbursed products with special permission for compassionate use, products with temporary special permission for compassionate use, medical devices and consumer products that need an article number, use [national numbers](#). The national numbers are given by the wholesalers that distribute the products.

The three largest wholesalers in Finland are Tamro ([www.tamro.fi](http://www.tamro.fi)), Oriola ([www.oriola.fi](http://www.oriola.fi)) and Magnum Medical ([www.magnummedical.fi](http://www.magnummedical.fi)).

## **3. Pricing of the Finnish Vnrs**

Nordic article numbers, allocated for Finland, are invoiced by the Pharmaceutical Information Centre, PIC.

New Vnrs are invoiced with an opening fee after assignment. Please note that the opening fee will be invoiced even if the Vnr should be withdrawn shortly after the assignment.

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All active Vnrs are also invoiced annually. The annual fee is invoiced in the beginning of the calendar year.

In Finland the Vnr fees include, except the administration of the numbers, also the Vnr extranet service with the notification forms for the Finnish ePrescription database and the possibility to make a contract with PIC for forwarding the information to authorities and other parties.

We highly recommend the companies to regularly check their active Vnrs and withdraw all unnecessary numbers.

The companies are also obliged to inform us about any changes in contact information regarding the invoicing. Invoices that have already been sent out are not credited.

Please contact [vnur@vnur.fi](mailto:vnur@vnur.fi) for more information regarding current fees and invoicing.

## 4. Barcodes in Finland

It's not compulsory to add a barcode to the medicinal packages sold in Finland. Although, many stakeholders are used to using them and highly appreciate their appearance.

### Barcode notification

You can easily inform about a new and changed barcodes with the barcode functionality. New barcodes can be added with barcode notification in the notification section (Notification forms > Barcode). Barcode can be added for a single product or, alternatively, a file containing many barcodes for many Vnrs can be uploaded.

- Compulsory information in the notification: Country (FI, SE, NO, DK, IS), Vnr and barcode.
- Optional fields: batch, date and comment (useful for example for hospital pharmacies, wholesalers etc.) can be left empty.
- A different barcode can be added to each country where the Vnr is used
- One Vnr can have more than one barcode in each country at the same time

N.B! You are able to see also other notifications in the notifications section.

**Very important: All other notification forms (=New product into the market, Change in price, Product withdrawal from the market, KELA notification and Other change) concern ONLY FINNISH market.**

### Barcode reports to manage your barcode data

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You can get a report of all barcodes of the products of your company. You can find the new Barcode report in the report section of Vnr Extranet Service (Reports > Barcodes). The report includes all barcodes informed to the Vnrs as well as the country and additional information of the barcodes. For barcode reporting needs of a single Vnr you can also use the current normal pdf-receipt. The Vnr receipt has been updated so that the most recently added barcode for each country is shown.

**PIC forwards the barcode information to co-operation parties**

When you do a barcode notification, we forward the new and updated barcode information to all necessary co-operation parties (pharmacy registers, wholesalers and statistic companies) as other notifications, if you have Vnr Extranet Service agreement in force. Barcode information is also included in the "PF Lääkerekisteri" (used by e.g. hospital pharmacies).

Fimea advises, that if the package is provided with a barcode or other corresponding identifier, it should be printed so that the label added by the pharmacy wont cover it.

**5. Contact information**

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd

Korkeavuorenkatu 35

FI-00130 Helsinki

Finland

Tel. +358 9 6150 4950

Fax +358 9 6150 4941

Visiting address:

Korkeavuorenkatu 35

00130 Helsinki

<http://www.laaketietokeskus.fi>[vnr@vnr.fi](mailto:vnr@vnr.fi)**Fimea**

The Finnish Medicines Agency Fimea is the national competent authority for regulating pharmaceuticals

Postal address: P.O. Box 55, FI-00034 FIMEA, FINLAND

Delivery address: Nauvontie 4, 00280 Helsinki, Finland

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Microkatu 1, 70210 Kuopio  
Itsenäisyydenaukio 2, 20800 Turku  
Switchboard: +358 29 522 3341  
E-mail: laakerekisteri@fimea.fi  
Web site: <http://www.fimea.fi>

## **HILA**

The Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board is subordinated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Insurance Department.

The Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board confirms reimbursement and a reasonable wholesale price of

- medicinal products
- clinical nutritional preparations
- basic ointments

that are reimbursable under the Health Insurance Act.

The Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board also monitors the effects of reimbursement and wholesale price decisions on reimbursement costs.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 33, FI-00023, Government, Finland

Visiting address: Snellmaninkatu 13, 5th floor, Helsinki

Phone: +358 295 16001 (switchboard; Government)

Fax: +358 9 698 1191

Email: [hila@stm.fi](mailto:hila@stm.fi)

Web site: [www.hila.fi](http://www.hila.fi)

## **KELA**

Kela operates under the supervision of Parliament.

Kela is responsible for providing the National Archive Health Information (KanTa) services. KanTa is a collective term used for a range of national health care information systems including ePrescription, eArchive, a national pharmaceutical database, and a portal for citizens to access their own health information online.

Mailing address: PL 78, 00381 Helsinki

Visiting address: Höyläämötie 1 a B, 00380 Helsinki

Phone: +358 20 634 11

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<http://www.kela.fi/generic-substitution-and-the-reference-price-system-timetable-for-price-notifications>

<http://www.kela.fi/pharmaceuticals-database>

**SAL (AFP)**

Maintains and produces information about medicinal products and their prices for pharmacies

Suomen Apteekkariliitto/ Association of Finnish Pharmacies

Pieni Roobertinkatu 14

FI-00120 Helsinki, Finland

Tel. +358 10 6801400

Fax. +358 9 647 167

E-mail: [taksa@apteekkariliitto.fi](mailto:taksa@apteekkariliitto.fi)

Web site: <http://www.apteekkariliitto.fi>

**YA**

Maintains and produces information about medicinal products and their prices for pharmacies

Yliopiston Apteekki/ University Pharmacy

Valimotie 7

P.O. Box 17

00381 Helsinki

Phone: +358 9 542 046

Fax: +358 9 5420 4456

E-mail: [tuoterekisteri@yliopistonapteekki.fi](mailto:tuoterekisteri@yliopistonapteekki.fi)

Web site: <http://www.yliopistonapteekki.fi>

