

## Appendix 2: Country-specific regulations on patient's out-of-pocket payments.

	The Netherlands	France	Belgium
<b>Category of patient's costs</b>	All first 46.46 Euro per year		
Physicians visits	No contribution	Contribution 25% of official tariff	Contribution of 30% of the tariff for GP-visit and 40% of specialist physician visit.
Social worker or rheumatology nurse	No contribution	No contribution	No contribution
Physiotherapy	No contribution	Contribution 25 to 40% of official tariff, depending on the treatment provided	Contribution 25 to 40% of official tariff, depending on the treatment provided
Alternative medicine	No contribution if recognised physician	Contribution 25% of official tariff physician if provided by recognised physician	Contribution 30% of official tariff physician if provided by recognised general physician
Drugs	No contribution (for drugs used by patients in this observational study)	Contribution of 0%, 35% or 65% according to type of drug.	Contribution of 0%, 25% or 30% according to the type of drug with maximum per prescription.
Technical procedures	No contribution	Contribution 35% of official tariff	From 10% up to 40% of official tariff
Hospitalisation	3.63 Euro per day	6.10 Euro per day for hotel costs and 20% of general treatment costs but maximised to the first 30 days.	27 Euro per hospitalisation + 11.50 Euro per day for hotel costs + 0.62 Euro per day for drug costs
Emergency department	No contribution	See contribution of physician visit	See contribution physician visit
Rehabilitation clinic	No contribution	6.10 € per day	Not applicable in study
Formal help	Patient contribution of 4.64 Euro/ hour with a maximum according to family income and family composition	Patient contribution per hour according to family income and family composition.	Patient contribution per hour variable according to family income and family composition.
Aids and appliances	Variable but only small contribution	Reimbursement to 70 or 100% after approval from health insurance	Reimbursed at fixed amount if prescribed by specialist physician
Adaptations at house	After approval of community. Variable but usually no contribution.	Reimbursed at variable amount after approval of community	Reimbursed at variable amount by special fund for chronic diseased.
Spa treatment	All costs exceeding 464.64 Euro per 2 year.	All costs exceeding reimbursement which varies according to health insurance company.	Not reimbursed
<b>Non-medical patient costs</b>			
Private household help	Hourly wage Eurostat handworkster (11.00 Euro)	Hourly wage Eurostat handworkster (10.24 Euro)	Hourly wage Eurostat handworkster (12.00 Euro)
Transport	Price per km based on mean gasoline and fuel market price. Reimbursement from health insurance company possible for visits to health care provider. Cheap public transport possible after approval from community. Invalid parking cart after approval from community free but parking costs not free	Price per m based on mean gasoline and fuel price. Reimbursement from health insurance company possible at fixed amount but following variable requirements. Parking cart or "carte debout pénible" possible but no exemption from parking costs.	Mean gasoline and fuel price. No reimbursement for AS-patients. Parking cart possible after approval but no exemption of parking costs.
Contributions	Home-help organisation 22.50 Euro/year. Limited contribution to AS society 81.81 Euro/year	25 € per year	12.5 € per year
Swim- & exercise-group	Usually within the extended contribution to patient AS society (225 Euro/year)	Swimming or exercising at patient reported cost (market price)	Swimming or exercising at patient reported cost (market price)