



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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***Pharmacy prices on the rise***

Online tool, information available to patients

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** – Health care officials stateside are changing the calculation used to charge pay patients of military pharmacies for prescriptions in a way that will generally increase medicine across the board.

The changes will not affect Active-Duty or Retired Service Members or their Families, said Kelley Locke, Uniform Business Office Manager, Europe Regional Medical Command.

“The upcoming Pharmacy Rate schedule effective July 1 will be based on the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) as listed in the Managed Care Pricing File from the Defense Supply Center-Philadelphia,” according to a fact sheet that will be available in all ERMC pharmacies soon, officials said. Since the AWP includes a dispensing fee, patients will no longer be charged separately for that.

A pricing tool will be available on the electronic ERMC Uniform Business Office web site soon after July 1 <http://www.eubo.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil/>. Patients can enter the information on their recurring prescriptions to begin comparative shopping prices. The tool’s performance will depend on the user’s internet connection speed, Locke noted.

Additionally, the pharmacy staff can access to this tool to help answer any cost information questions our patients may have prior to filling their prescription, according to Col. Curtis Hansen, ERMC’s pharmacy consultant and chief of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Pharmacy.

“The MHS may not always be the lowest cost option available to patients,” Locke said. She said that by conducting a price comparison using the tool and an internet search of the words ‘pharmacy pricing,’ patients can identify a number of options.

More information will be available as developments take place.

