

Press release

Hospitals choose Mediq Home care guaranteed for patients

Utrecht, 28 December 2011 – As of 1 January 2012, the issuing of specialised pharmaceuticals to patients (like TNF-alpha blockers) will be the responsibility of hospitals rather than pharmacies. Mediq believes it is important for patients to receive specialist pharmaceutical care where they most need it. This may be at patients' homes, at their own public pharmacy or at a hospital pharmacy. Twelve hospitals have already chosen the specialised Mediq Pharma Services for their patients.

The government has decided to shift the costs of TNF-alpha blockers to the hospital budget as of 1 January 2012. TNF-alpha blockers are effective but expensive pharmaceuticals that are prescribed, among other things, for the treatment of rheumatism, inflammation of the colon and psoriasis (rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and psoriatic arthritis). What is involved is not only the issuing of pharmaceuticals, but also providing guidance in terms of administering them, as well as supplying nursing care for patients at home, if necessary.

Focus on patient care

The starting point is that nothing changes for the patient. Via Mediq's logistics network, patients receive the pharmaceuticals in special cool boxes delivered at any desired time, to any desired address. On the instructions of the physician, Mediq also provides specialised nursing care to guide patients regarding instructions or injections. A recent study showed that patients greatly appreciate this service, and rate it as 8.5 and higher. Also it appears the majority of patients prefers to have this care at home.

The care pharmacy of Mediq Pharma Services has been an expert for years in the field of complex care involving, among other things, specialist pharmaceuticals and the delivery of tailored packages to hospitals. Nicole Schakenraad, Director of Mediq Pharma Services: 'The advantage for hospitals is that they themselves no longer need to completely organise the pharmaceutical and nursing care and issuing of TNF-alpha blockers. Mediq Pharma Services has the experience and size, and we are currently already providing specialist pharmaceutical care and pharmaceuticals to patients at home, via their own public pharmacy or a hospital pharmacy.'

Mediq Pharma Services is part of Mediq Pharmacies Netherlands.

Note for editors/not for publication

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Mediq is an international company delivering medical devices, pharmaceuticals and related care services. The patient is at the centre of everything we do. Mediq delivers via three channels: direct to people's homes (Direct), to professional customers such as hospitals, nursing homes and GPs (Institutional) and via Mediq Pharmacies. Mediq operates in 15 countries. Its head office is located in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The company was founded in 1899 and has around 8,300 employees. Mediq is listed on NYSE Euronext Amsterdam. Mediq reported € 2.6 billion net sales in 2010. For more information see www.mediq.com.