

Albany, NY (PRWEB) September 26, 2013 -- The cost of treating rare diseases in an age when austerity measures are hitting a total health care funding across Europe is a highly controversial, even emotive subject. There is a clear and pressing clinical need, a strong patient voice and the treatments themselves sometimes offer the only hope. But is this enough to assure premium prices and special status in an era of budget limitations, and growing demands for evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness?


Payers are becoming increasingly strict. Four of the first seven orphan drugs to enter Germany’s AMN OG procedure were considered to bring only minor additional benefit and for two others the benefit was deemed non-quantifiable. Discounts were required for all. Revolution by the Transparency Commission in France has seen both SMR and ASMR scores downgraded with resultant price cuts. Half of all orphan drugs evaluated have been rejected by one or more HTA bodies in the UK.

Manufacturers of treatments for Fabry and Pompe diseases are currently negotiating discounts in the Netherlands to prevent deleting after results from a four-year conditional reimbursement PMS period disappointed. On a more positive note, September 2013 saw the start of the first pilot pan-EU assessment under the Mechanism of Coordinated Access to Orphan Medicinal Products (MoCA-OMP) initiative.


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Updated in autumn 2013, it includes:

- Availability, price and reimbursement status for all 64 EU-designated orphan drugs as of June 2013 with centralized marketing authorization granted prior to end-2012.
- How an orphan drug policy differs across Europe. Expanded sections for each EU-5 country, Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden. 25 countries covered in total.
- Both hospital and out-of-hospital market segments.
- How reimbursement systems treat orphan drugs. ‘High cost’ funding systems explained.
- Impact of health technology assessment.
- How managed entry agreements and patient registries can help bridge the data gap.
- Key role of patient advocacy groups.
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The potential for European collaboration to accelerate market access.

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China has rich waste heat resources. Especially in steel, nonferrous, chemical, cement, building materials, oil & petrochemical, light industry, coal and other sectors, waste heat resources approximately occupy 17%-67% of the total fuel consumption, of which, recyclable waste heat resource roughly stands up 60% of the total waste heat resources. At present, China’s waste heat utilization ratio is rather low, with the figure in large steel enterprises being 30%-50%. But the waste heat utilization in other sectors is even lower. Thus, China is expected to see a huge potential to improve its waste heat utilization.

By temperature of waste heat, the waste heat utilization equipment fall into two categories: the first comes to waste heat boiler which uses medium-and high-temperature waste heat; the second refers to lithium bromide refrigerator (heat pump) and screw expander, both of which use low-temperature waste heat. Of these, waste heat boiler occupies a lion’s share in waste heat utilization equipments. In 2012, the output of waste heat boiler approximated 812 sets, totaling 39,788 steam tons.

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