



Dissemination of Information. Articles and reports. August 2010

Dear ECONMED participants

On this occasion we are glad to share two articles recently appeared in the [Universidad ISalud](#) journal to consider them relevant for the discussions and dialogues which [ECONMED](#) seeks to inspire and to promote.

- In *La enfermedad como catastrofe* Dr. Federico Tobar examines the problems and challenges related to what is known as catastrophic diseases, listing its principal characteristics on the basis of the existing bibliography with special attention paid to the importance of high-cost drugs (HCD) and to the growing importance of the biotechnological products (exemplified by the growth rates of purchasing levels).
- In the article [Incorporación de nuevas tecnologías, salud y gasto sanitario](#) (attached and hyperlinked) professor Beatriz Lopez-Valcarcel guides us through a reflection about the impact that the inclusion of new health technologies (responsible for between a 33 and 50% of the increase in health expenditures) may have in the public health systems. Highlighting the difference between drugs and the rest of technologies the paper clearly shows the role that can elements such as patents effectively play in elevating the cost and even delay a more widespread access. Using recent examples in the United States and European contexts, the author points out the need for a clear regulation based on explicit criteria for the adoption (and inclusion within public health systems) of health technologies, based on studies of ex ante evaluation as the *Cost Benefit Analysis* (ACB) or *Research of Health Outcomes* (IRS). The article is a summary of the conference entitled "Impact economic in the incorporation of the technology" delivered in the [4th Health Economy Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean](#), 1st Seminar on Health Economics of Chile held in Santiago, Chile between 19 and 20 and 22 January 2010.

We allow ourselves to remind you of some related publications and materials which have been shared through ECONMED lately as [Access to High-cost Drugs in the Americas. Challenges and Prospects](#) (PAHO Nov.2009). and [Política y gestión de la Cobertura de Medicamentos de Alto Costo. Relevamiento de la experiencia internacional y respuesta del Fondo Nacional de Recursos](#) (FUNDE, Uruguay Marzo.2010). In connection to biotechnological products the summary of the first session of the Working Group on biotechnological products of the [Pan American Network of Harmonization of the Pharmaceutical Regulation](#) (PARF) as the enactment of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation within the US Health Care reform and the demand (still open) to share modifications and new developments in the regulation or legal treatment of this type of products in the national contexts of ECONMED participants.

References: TOBAR, F [The disease as catastrophe](#). [I]health Volume 5, issue 22. August 2010:60-63.
GONZALEZ B, [Incorporation of new technologies, health, and health expenditure.](#)[I]salud Volume 5, Issue 21, April 2010: 31-36

