

Foro de la Salud, Foro Farmaceutico  
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# Autocuidado de la salud: Educación e impacto en la sostenibilidad del sistema

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# Agenda

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- About the study
- Context: demography, costs and the drive for value
- A growing role for self-care: implications for economy, society and regulation
- Conclusions



# About the study

## Consumer health: time for a regulatory re-think?

The  
Economist

INTELLIGENCE  
UNIT

Written independently by  
The Economist Intelligence Unit

Extensive secondary research

In-depth interviews with 15  
international experts



# Executive summary of the study

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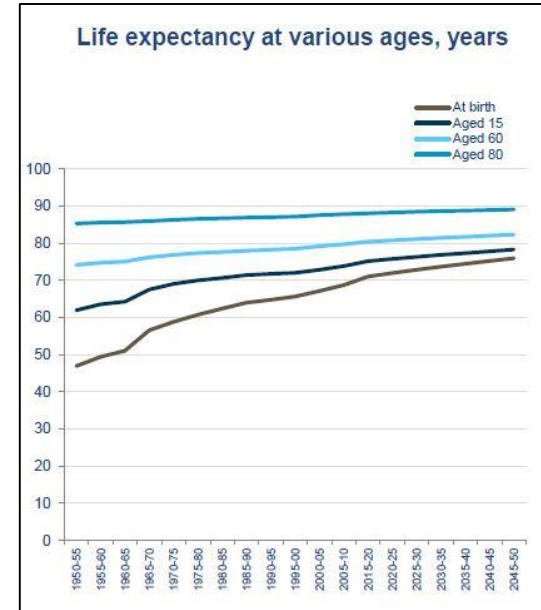
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medicines are an important part of embracing the concept of self-care.
- Demographic changes in the coming decades will force global health systems to focus on cost-effectiveness and value.
- Throughout the world, we observe governments seeking potential savings for their health systems, enabling them to focus on treating more serious illnesses.
- The use of OTCs is consistent with government policies to increase the role of the population in caring for their own health.
- OTC medicines face regulation in a variety of areas, but there is little understanding of the costs and benefits.
- The harmonisation of regulatory efforts only touches on OTCs and is partially relevant instead of focusing directly on these drugs.
- Effective harmonisation requires a holistic approach, a similar level of regulatory capacity and an understanding of the role of healthcare professionals and patients.

A grayscale photograph of three healthcare professionals sitting around a table in a meeting. On the left, a woman with curly hair and a stethoscope around her neck is writing on a clipboard. In the center, a woman is smiling and looking at a tablet. On the right, a man in a white lab coat is smiling and holding a pen. The background shows a whiteboard and shelves with books.

**Context: demography, costs  
and the drive for value**

# Demographic trends: Continued population growth & ageing

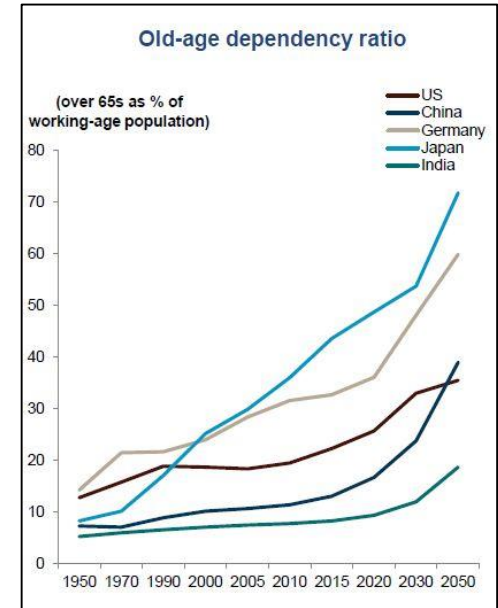
- Over past 35 years, **life expectancy has increased significantly** – 11 years for men & 12 years for women (67.5 & 73.3, respectively).
- UN estimates: average life expectancy to increase from the current 71 years to 77 years in 2050.
- Infant deaths dropped by 60% between 1970 and 2010.
- Our projected scenarios point to a continuation of this trend until 2050: gradual but noticeable **improvements in human health**.
- Reduction of premature deaths should continue but will not lead to revolutionary increases in life expectancy.
- Global population has doubled over past 45 years to around 7.6bn.
- UN average projections for world population: **9.8bn in 2050** and 11bn+ by 2100.
- All these scenario points to **increased health spending**, and many experts fear that costs will become unaffordable.



Sources: UN, The Economist Intelligence Unit

# Healthcare spending

- Pre-2008 rise in healthcare spending seemed unstoppable (some forecasts predicted US reaching 50% of GDP by 2080).
- Global financial crisis: **cost-containment** becomes political priority.
- OECD predicts public spending on health will rise from average 6% of GDP in 2006-10 to 9.5% in 2060. (without containment: 14%).
- Japan: currently manages 9.5% budget, but old-age dependency ratio will rise from 40% to 70% by 2050.
- China: modest 5%, but dependency ratio rising to 39% from 13%.
- India: 4.8% of GDP (public & private) in 2017 (modest by global standards); plan to **raise public health spending** to 2.5% of GDP, from 1.2%, by 2025.
- Nigeria: spending up 20% a year nominal (pop growth of 2.6%).
- EIU forecast: global health **spending growth of 4.1% a year** in 2017-21, up from just 1.3% in 2012-16.
- By 2050: cost-containment pressure to become widespread & embedded. **Value-based healthcare** will be the norm & policy will continue to shift to prevention and rationing.
- But: healthcare is more than cost (productivity, innovation, investment etc)!



Sources: UN, The Economist Intelligence Unit

# A new paradigm: value-based healthcare

- Soaring costs, uneven access to care, **fragmented systems** siloed by medical specialty.
- Value-based healthcare: maximum **outcomes** at lowest possible costs.
- Payment systems: moving away from paying for volume (e.g. fee-for-service) to **paying for value**.
- Alignment with VBHC principles **varies** sharply across the globe.
- Adoption still at an **early stage**.

Key: ● Very High  
● High  
● Moderate  
● Low

**Alignment with VBHC**  
Countries are classified into four categories (Low, Moderate, High or Very High) based on the 17 indicators in the study, which were designed to evaluate a country's alignment with value-based healthcare concepts.

	Overall	Enabling context, policy and institutions for value in healthcare	Measuring outcomes and costs	Integrated and patient-focused care	Outcome-based payment approach
Australia	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Brazil	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Canada	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Chile	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
China	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Colombia	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	Low

<http://vbhcglobalassessment.eiu.com/>

## Colombia

Overall alignment	Moderate
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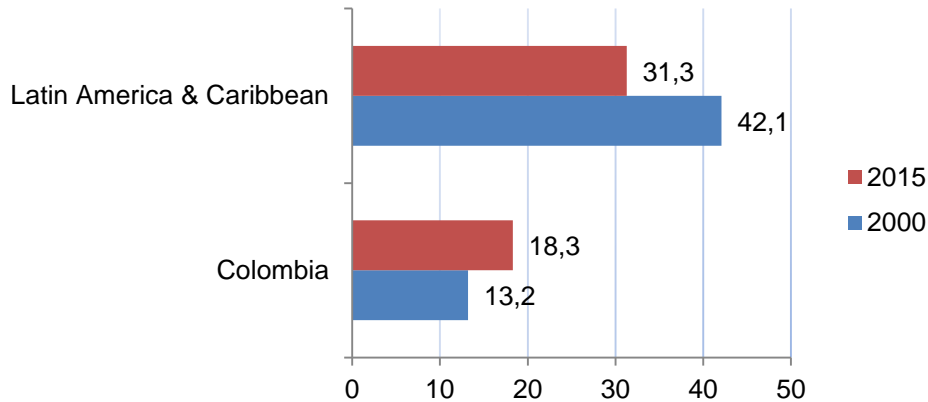
## Domains

Enabling context, policy and institutions for value in healthcare	Moderate
Measuring outcomes and costs	Low
Integrated and patient-focused care	High
Outcome-based payment approach	Low



# The Colombian context

## Out-of-pocket expenditure (% of current health expenditure)



Source: World Bank.

- **Population ageing:** from 74 to 80 years by 2050.
- **Population growth:** 55m by 2050, from 49m now; influx of refugees.
- Health recognised as a **fundamental right**.
- **Financial sustainability:** healthcare law of February 2017 widens access to treatment.
- **Healthcare expenditure rising:** 6.2% of GDP in 2015, up from 5.5% in 2000 (World Bank).
- **Need for value-based healthcare:** Institute of Health Technology Assessment (IETS; 2012); reforms to improve outcomes, patient centricity and quality (2016).
- **Greater role for self-care:** government wants higher share of out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure.



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**A growing role for self-care: implications  
for economy, society and regulation**

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# Self-care: Bringing healthcare costs under control & empowering patients

- Giving patients and healthcare consumers more **information**.
- Giving patients and healthcare consumers more **power**.
- Lowering the number of **medical tests** for patients.
- Increasing **competition** among healthcare providers.
- Prioritising **non-communicable** diseases.
- Switching medicines into the **over-the-counter** (OTC) category.



# OTC medicines: Example from the UK (1)

Data compiled by IMS Health for the Proprietary Association of Great Britain (PAGB), the trade association representing manufacturers of branded OTC medicines, self-care medical devices and food supplements, show that **minor ailments in General Practice cost the NHS around:**

**£2bn** (US\$3.1bn) in 2006–7 or...

**2.7%** of the total NHS budget of...

**£75bn** during that financial year.

Of this, the top 10 minor ailments (see Figure 1) were responsible for



of consultation costs

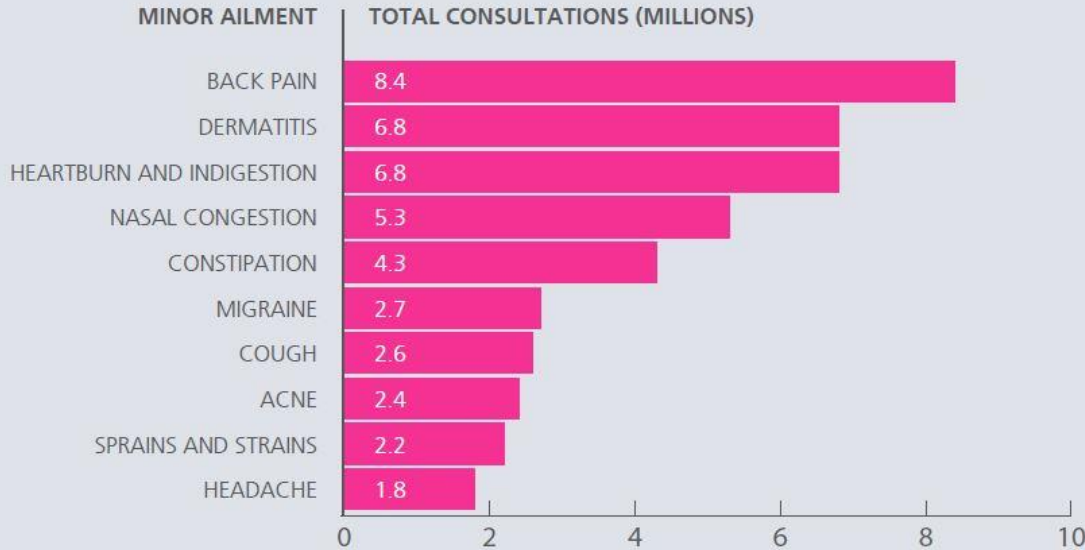


of prescription costs

amounting to **£1.6bn**, according to the study.<sup>10</sup> A more recent study by IMS Health for PAGB (March 2015) showed that similar conditions treated in hospital emergency departments cost the NHS **£290m annually**.<sup>11</sup>

# OTC medicines: Example from the UK (2)

FIGURE 1: TOP 10 MINOR AILMENTS BY NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS



About one in five consultations with general practitioners & hospital emergency departments in the UK could have been handled through self-care (IMS Health report).

# OTC medicines: Example from the US

- Industry-sponsored study by consultancy Booz & Co (2012): every dollar spent in the US on OTC drugs led to **health-system savings of US\$6-7** for health sector (total: US\$102bn);
- Potential for further **productivity savings** from avoiding unnecessary medical consultations: US\$23bn;
- **60m more people had conditions treated** per year than would have in a hypothetical world where all drugs were prescription-only.



Source: Booz & Co

# OTC medicines: Words of caution

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## Uneven distribution of savings

- Research\*: cost savings of switching drugs to OTC availability tend to be unevenly distributed (data from UK, US & Sweden).
- Reduces prescription drug costs for payers/insurers/governments, but increases costs for most patients.
- Main motives for switch: pharmaceutical firms' desire to expand market, attempts to reduce pharmaceutical costs & self-care movement.

## Risks & issues

- Many patients **will not/cannot adequately manage their own conditions**, with poorer health outcomes being the inevitable consequence (WHO World Medicines Situation Report 2011).
- Possible lack of data on benefits & risks in target population, inability of consumers to make appropriate self-selection decisions, lack of ability to pay for poorest families, lack of appropriate monitoring, inadequate regulatory control over advertising & marketing.
- Overuse of antibiotics leading to **antimicrobial resistance** (WHO report on South East Asia); OTC sales of antibiotics regulated in capital district of Bogotá since 2005.

## Possible solutions

- Clear, effective and holistic **regulatory framework**.
- **New form of patient–professional partnership** (training, collaborative care & patient education).

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\* Source: Cohen, J., "Switching prescription drugs to over the counter", BMJ, 2005 Jan 1; 330(7481): 39–41.

# OTC medicines: Why dedicated regulation?

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- Need to ensure **data requirements & drug safety**.
- Ensuring **clarity for consumers, healthcare professionals and pharma companies**, eg classification of drug as OTC, the claims sellers may make, the sales channels through which the products can be sold, and whether a pharmacist needs to be involved in the transaction.
- Better clarity can pave the way for **innovation**.
- Ensure **consumer/patient access** to high-quality care.
- Regulatory framework for OTC review often based on prescription medicines. Need for assessment for marketing authorisation of OTCs with adequate **balance of risks & benefits**.





# Conclusions

# Conclusions

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- Demographic trends point to **increased health spending** globally (including in Colombia).
- **Cost-containment** pressures will become widespread & embedded.
- **Value-based healthcare** will be the norm & policy will continue to shift to prevention and rationing.
- Studies from UK & US: switching from prescription-only to OTC can lead to **health-system & productivity savings**, but savings may be **unevenly distributed**.
- **Risks**: many patients will not/cannot adequately manage their own conditions, with poorer health outcomes being the inevitable consequence.
- Need for **new form of patient–professional partnership** (training, collaborative care & patient education) & clear, effective and holistic **regulatory framework**.
- **Good dedicated OTC regulation needed** to ensure data requirements; drug safety; clarity for consumers, healthcare professionals and pharma companies; innovation; consumer/patient access to high-quality care; balancing risks & benefits.

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# Thank You!

## For more information:

*Consumer health: time for a regulatory re-think?*

<http://www.eiperspectives.economist.com/healthcare/consumer-health-time-regulatory-re-think>

*More thought leadership from The Economist Intelligence Unit:*

<http://www.eiperspectives.economist.com/>

More from Martin: @EconomistMartin



A grayscale photograph of a woman smiling, wearing a patterned headscarf. The image is overlaid with a white title and two horizontal lines.

# Appendix: Case studies

# Case study China

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- China Nonprescription Medicines Association lists OTC drugs, including analgesics, sedatives, antacids, digestives and antidiarrheals.
- 2013 study by law firm Covington & Burling: China's **rules on advertisement of OTC drugs are more permissive than rules for prescription-only**. For example, OTC drug advertisements are permitted on any kind of media including the internet, although pre-approval is required. By contrast, advertisements of prescription drugs are limited to state-approved medical and pharmaceutical professional publications.
- 2014 study: Chinese OTC medicines contributed **21–50% among all the pharmaceutical sales by community pharmacies** in China.
- 2018 study: regulations on OTC drug instructions should be strengthened to **reduce health risks related to self-medication**. Targeted health education on risks of self-medication should be considered.

# Case studies Vietnam and Korea

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## Vietnam

- **Supermarkets** allowed to sell OTC products from beginning of 2017. In 2017, some hypermarkets in big cities started selling consumer-health products.
- Unauthorised **parallel imports** (mostly from developed countries) becoming more popular amongst consumers (wider choice, reliability & convenience).

## South Korea

- Strict regulation: **pharmacies the leading distribution channel** for OTC products within store-based retailing. Pending regulation on convenience stores as channel.
- November 2012: OTC sales **outside pharmacy** allowed for certain products (eg cold and digestive medicines).
- **Mixed results:** expansion of channels reduced number of monthly outpatient visits for dyspepsia and migraine, but not for acute upper respiratory infections.