

# CENTRALISED PURCHASING AS A STRATEGIC LINE FOR THE RATIONALISATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL EXPENDITURE IN A REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

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## BACKGROUND

Centralised drug purchasing in a Regional Health Service enhances **efficiency in drugs procurement** and allows all hospitals in charge of the Health Service **get same prices no matter hospital's size or complexity level**.

## PURPOSE

To evaluate the **estimated savings in pharmaceutical expenditure in a Regional Health Service** after the creation of a multidisciplinary working group in 2016, in charge of **processing public tendering procedures for centralized procurement of hospital drugs**.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

❖ **Prospective study of estimated savings** obtained by **centralised purchasing of high economical impact hospital drugs**.

❖ In 2016, a working group was created with:

- Hospital Pharmacists.
- Central Health Service Pharmacists.
- An economist.



OBJETIVE

Assisting public tendering procedures for centralised purchasing of hospital drugs, as well as shortening processing times.

❖ **Following data** were collected to **calculate the estimated savings**:

- Drug units purchased by hospitals of Regional Health Service in the reference period of time (2015/2016)
- Average price of the drugs in the reference period of time r (2015/2016).
- Tender price and auction clearing price of the procurement procedure.

## RESULTS

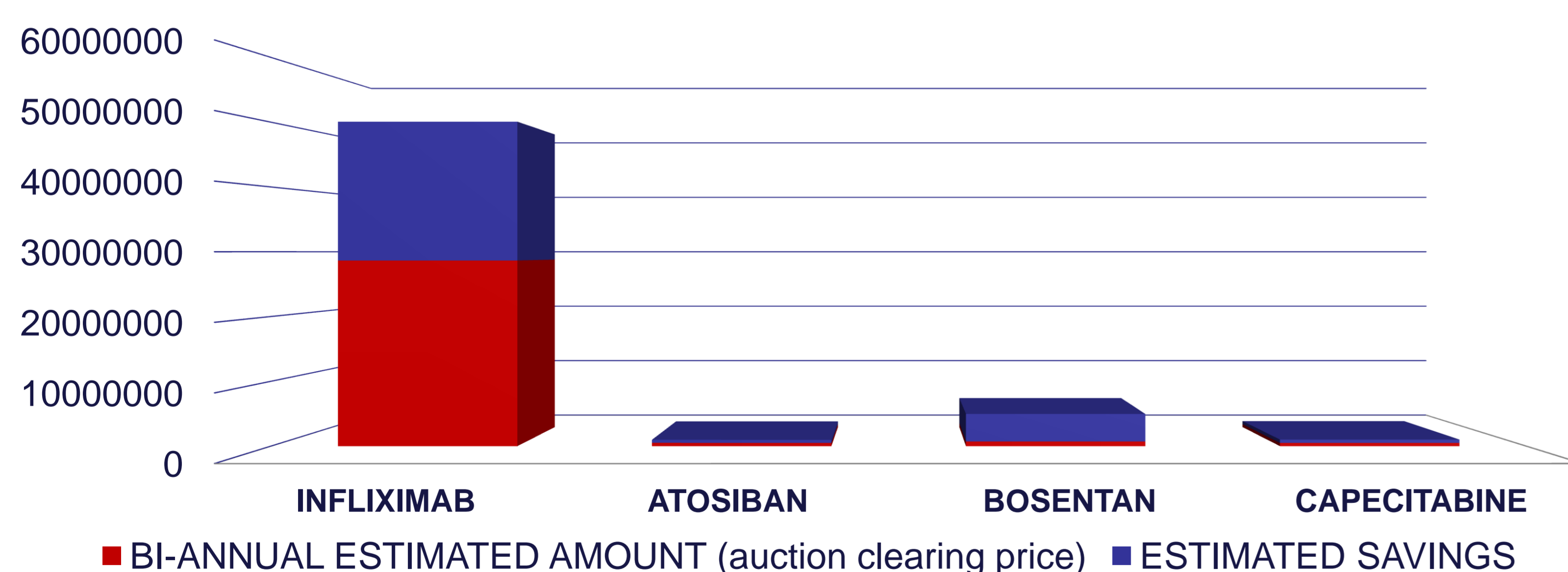
❖ Since 2016, there have been six meetings of the working group to select the most relevant and appropriate drugs to be included in centralised procedures.

❖ **Four centralised purchasing procedures have been concluded** and **four centralised purchasing procedures are waiting for adjudication**. The estimated saving for two years of these procedures and the percentual savings compared to the reference period are:

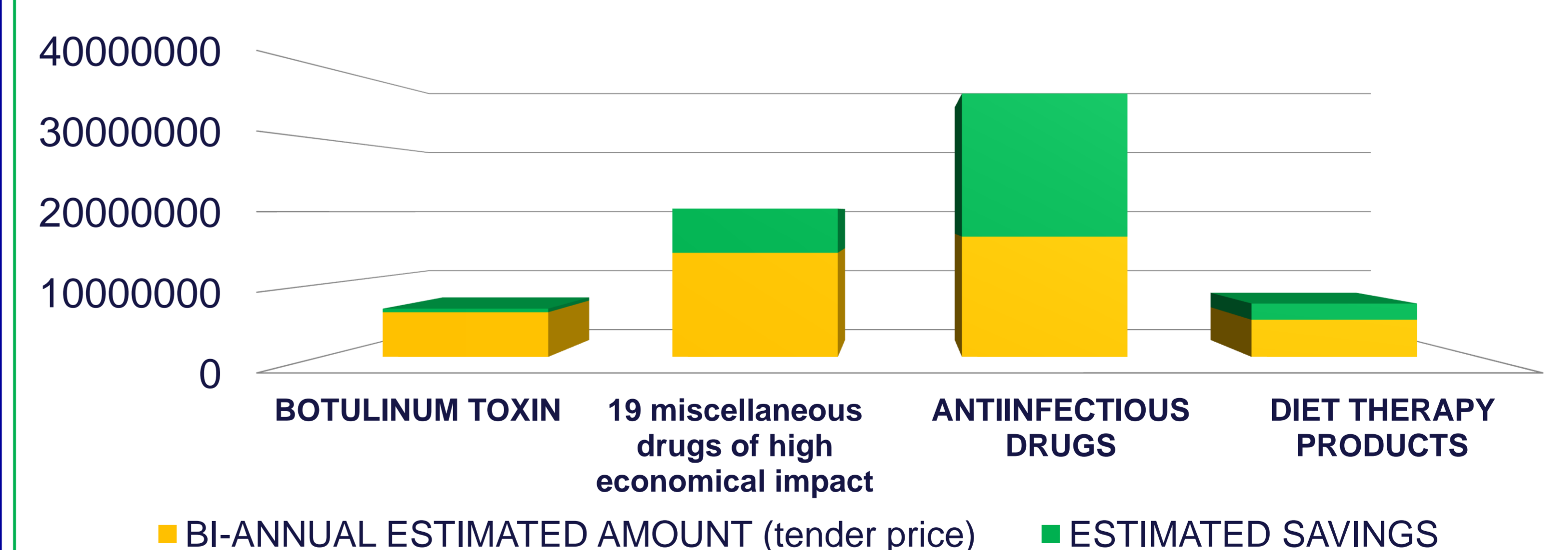
| CONCLUDED CONTRACTS | ESTIMATED SAVINGS | % saving compared to the reference period |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| INFLIXIMAB          | € 21,417,721      | 42.8%                                     |
| ATOSIBAN            | € 472,726         | 48.0%                                     |
| BOSENTAN            | € 4,247,198       | 85.6%                                     |
| CAPECITABINE        | € 519,339         | 51.0%                                     |

| PROCEDURES WAITING FOR ADJUDICATION                | ESTIMATED SAVINGS | % saving compared to the reference period |
|--|-------------------|---|
| BOTULINUM TOXIN                                    | € 491,056         | 7.4%                                      |
| 19 miscellaneous drugs of high economical impact * | € 6,094,371       | 29.8%                                     |
| ANTIINFECTIOUS DRUGS                               | € 19,695,059      | 54.3%                                     |
| DIET THERAPY PRODUCTS                              | € 2,239,318       | 30.5%                                     |

Contracts concluded



PROCEDURES WAITING ADJUDICATION



\* 19 miscellaneous drugs of high economical impact: antineoplastic agents, antivirals, analgesics, Proton pump inhibitors, antiemetics, etc.

**€ 55,176,789 savings have been estimated for two years in the hospital pharmaceutical expenditure of the Regional Health Service.**

## CONCLUSIONS

❖ According to our results, we consider that the **centralised drug purchasing** is an **effective rationalisation measure in hospital pharmaceutical expenditure**. It **reduces the administrative burden** of processing individual procurement procedures by each hospital and it gets **same prices** in different hospitals of the same Health Service.