

Evaluation of the Hungarian Generic Program Between 2010 and 2021

HPR81

Medi-Concept

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Objective

In Hungary, there is no regular price revision for originator products, so it is reasonable to assume that the distributor of the originator product would not in principle to reduce the price. In 2010, the rules of active substance or therapy-based reference pricing were significantly tightened¹, allowing for a reduction in drug budget expenditure. In our research, we investigate how much the reference price reimbursement - which has been in place since 2011 - has been able to reduce pharmaceutical expenditure and how much it has saved.

Methods

All publicly available quarterly reports about reference price-based groups and drug funding summaries published by the National Health Insurance Fund² were analyzed from 2010 up to December 2021. During the period under review, we identified newly created reference price-based groups and examined the extent of savings for these groups. The savings were considered as the difference between the actual expenditure of these new groups and the theoretical assumption on the number of drugs used at the pre-fixed price.

Results

During the study period, 131 new reference price-based groups were identified. The nervous system (n=58, 44%), the cardiovascular system (n=20, 15%) and the antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents (n=18, 14%) were the three most common areas in which these groups were formed. Savings can be observed in 122 groups (93%) under the reference price-based reimbursement, with savings exceeding HUF 1-10 billion for 48 groups and HUF 10-100 billion for 8 groups over the years.

Figure 1: New groups, broken down by main therapeutic area

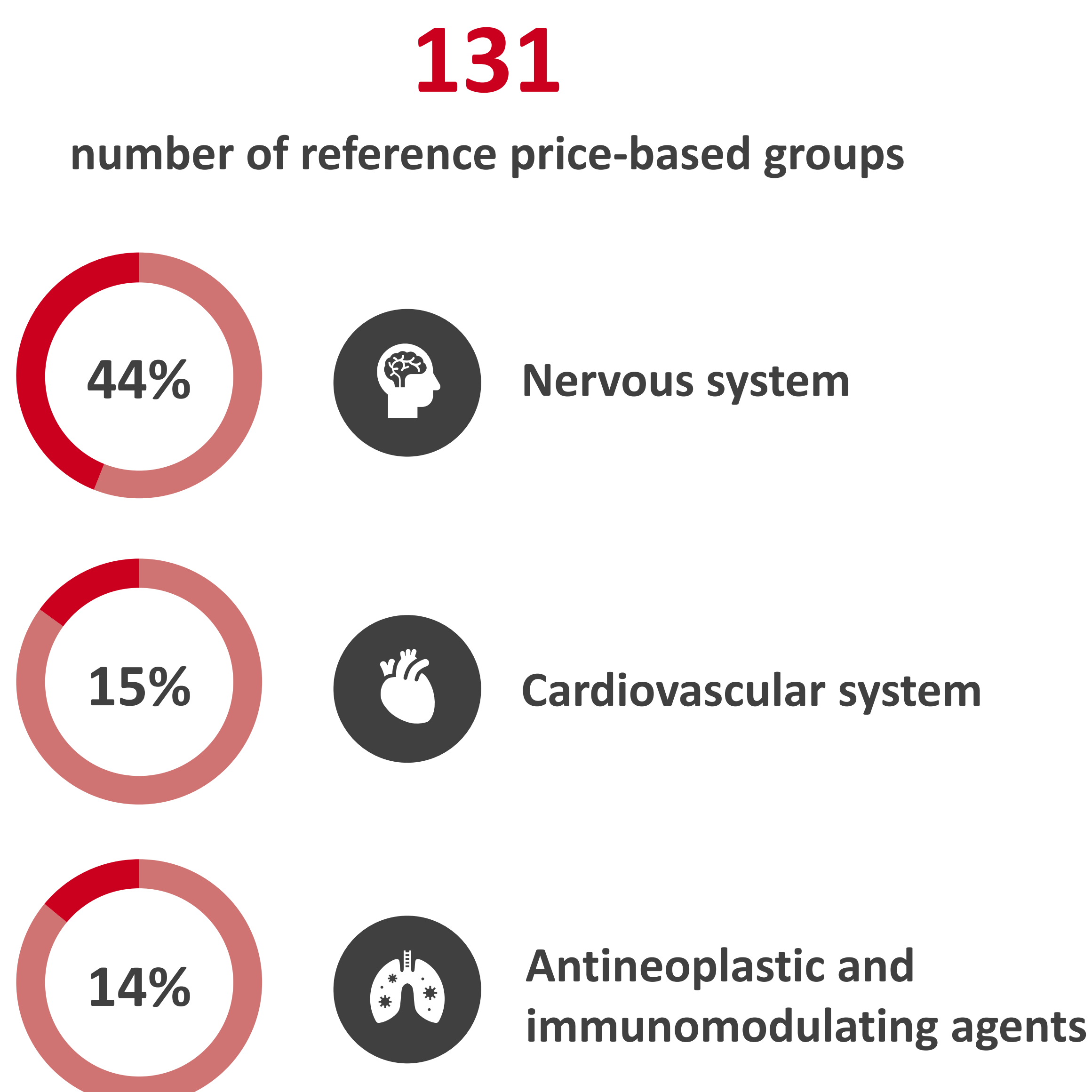
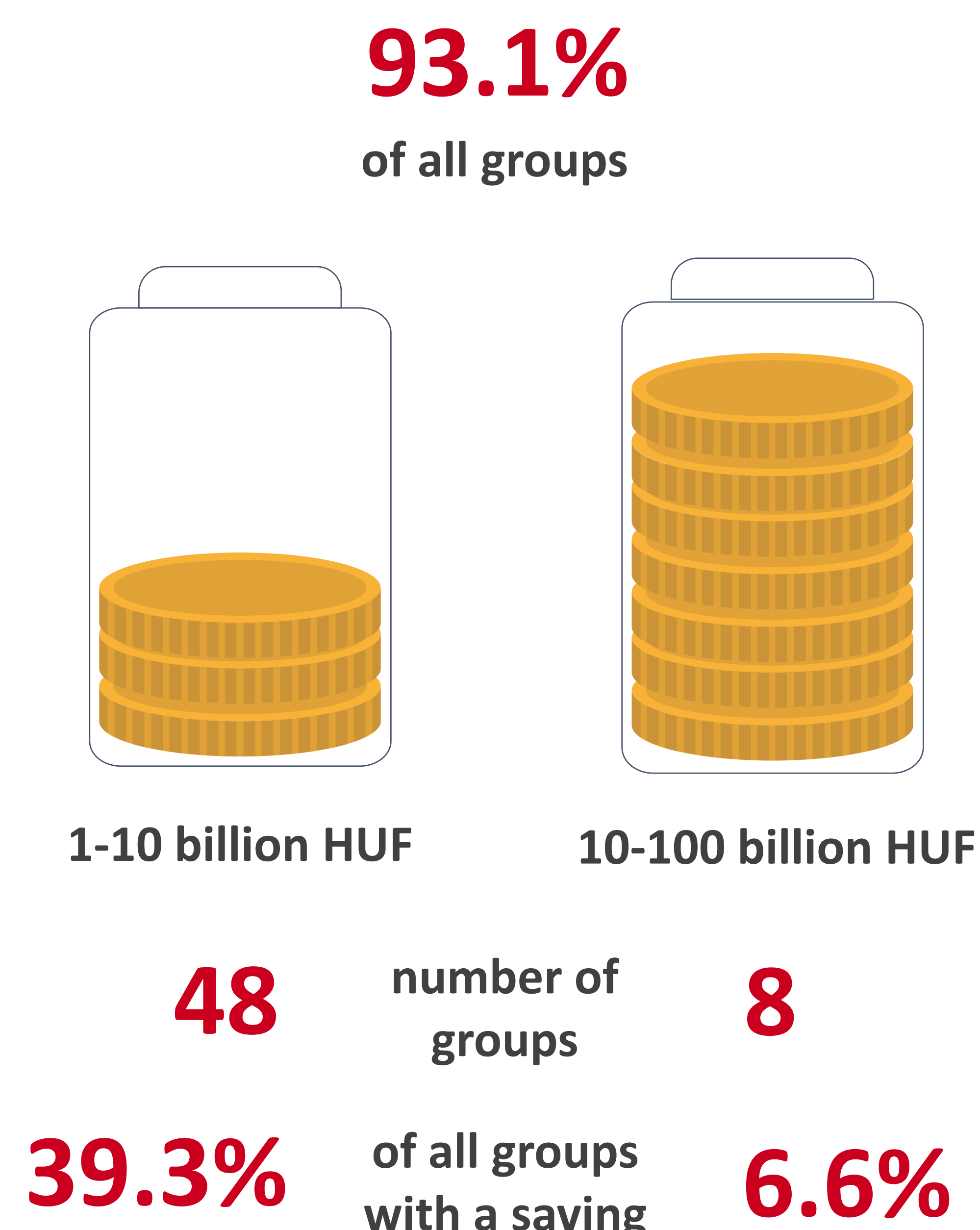


Figure 2: Realized savings



Conclusion

In the majority of the newly reference-price based groups created, this solution is a retention one.

Sources

¹Decree 452/2017. (XII. 27.) of the Hungarian Government

²National Health Insurance Fund

(http://www.neak.gov.hu/felso_menu/szakmai_oldalok/gyogyszer_segedeszkoz_gyogyfurdo_tamogatas/egeszsegugyi_vallalkozasoknak/gyartok_forgalomba_hozok/Fixesites.html)