

# Pharmacist prescribing in Poland

EUROPEAN PHARMACISTS' PROFESSIONAL FORUM

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**POLISH PHARMACEUTICAL CHAMBER**



Polish Pharmaceutical Chamber



## QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE POLISH PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET



## E-PRESCRIPTIONS



## PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING



## OUR EXPECTATIONS



# QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE POLISH PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET

# Polish pharmacy in numbers

We represent over **39,000** pharmacists

- ✔ over **26,100** of us work in community pharmacies
- ✔ we work in over **12,900** pharmacies\* and **limited-service** pharmacies
- ✔ over **83%** of pharmacists are **women**
- ✔ we provide **2 million** professional pieces of advice daily



\*When a pharmacy is open the presence of a pharmacist is compulsory.

# Polish pharmacy in numbers

**1.971** pharmacist per pharmacy → European average 2.4 (2019)



over **90%** of Polish patients trust pharmacist





# E-PRESCRIPTION

# E-PRESCRIPTION

The digitalization of the pharmaceutical market is a common direction of development in many countries around the world, aiming at improving the standard of patient care and increasing patients' safety during the treatment process.



E-prescription was developed and introduced by a governmental institution - The eHealth Centre (a governmental organization under the Ministry of Health responsible for the development of health care information systems in Poland).

**E-prescribing is obligatory from January 2020.**

Since it came into force, it is available and free of charge for patients in every pharmacy.

# E-PRESCRIPTION

4-digit access code which together with PESEL number enables a pharmacist to download an e-prescription or package of e-prescription

The image shows a screenshot of a Polish e-prescription form. At the top left is the logo 'e-recepta'. Below it is a barcode. Under the barcode is a long alphanumeric string: '10010172316993141033672942435380593264361040' and a shorter ID: 'ID: 2.19.840.1.113993.3.4424.2.7.14997.2.1'. Below this is a 4-digit access code '6500' and the date 'Wystawiono: 28.05.2019'. The patient's name is 'Pacjent: Paweł Kowalski'. The doctor's name is 'Wystawca: lek. Nowak Agnieszka' with her PESEL number 'PWZ lekarza 1234567' and phone number 'tel: +48322712745 (rejestracja)'. The control date is 'Termin kontroli: 25 czerwca 2019 godz.14:00'. The form contains three prescriptions: 1. 'Recepta 1 z 3' for 'Laroaks 2,5 tabl. (2,5 mg), 28 szt.' with a date of '31.05.2019' and dosage '1 op. po 28 szt.'. 2. 'Recepta 2 z 3' for 'Derundahl 10 mg tabl.' with a date of '31.05.2019' and dosage '1 op. po 30 szt.'. 3. 'Recepta 3 z 3' for 'Safixol duo 2,5 tabl. (2,5 mg), 28 szt.' with a date of '31.05.2019' and dosage '1 op. po 28 szt.'. At the bottom, there is a link to 'pacjent.gov.pl'.

e-prescription barcode

e-prescription

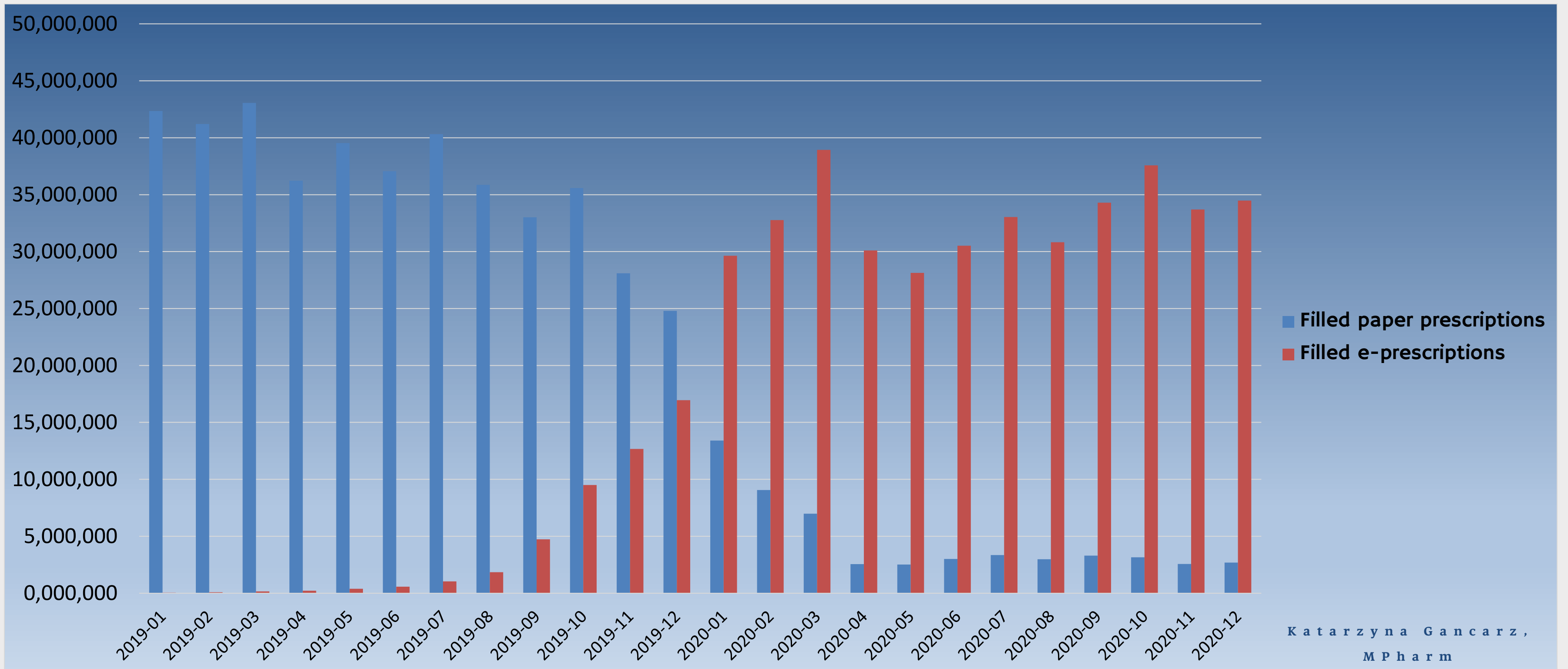
e-prescription package

There are few cases in which it is permissible to issue a prescription in paper form (e.g. lack of internet access).

Since January 8th 2020 more than **1.2 billion e-prescriptions** have been issued.



# PAPER PRESCRIPTION AND E-PRESCRIPTION 2019-2020

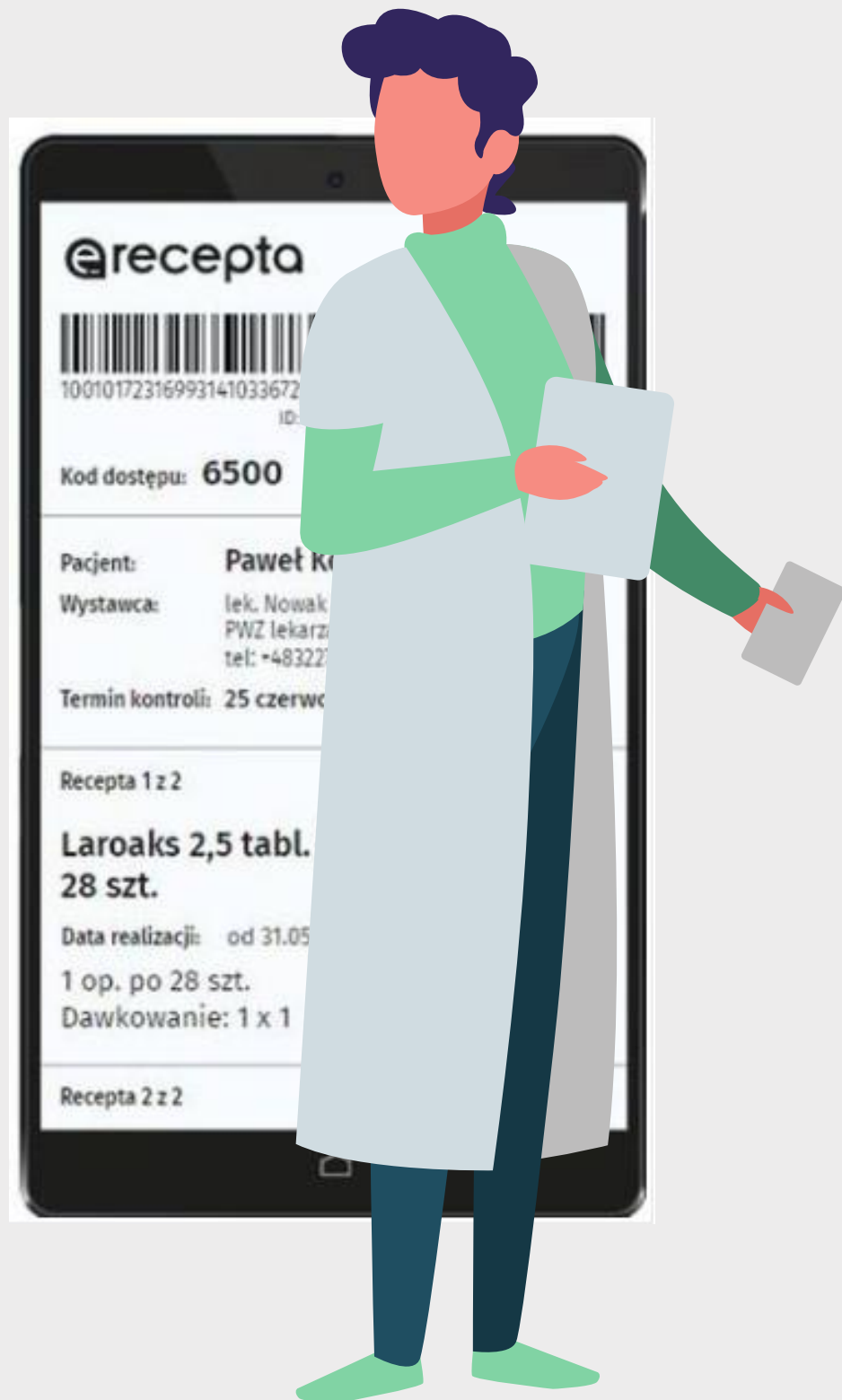


Katarzyna Gancarz,  
MPharm



# PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING

# PRESCRIBING – THE PHARMACISTS' ROLE



Pharmacist prescribing practices were introduced into law in Poland in 2002, permitting pharmacists to **prescribe medications in emergency situations.**

From April 2020, pharmacists are also **authorized to issue reimbursed prescriptions** for themselves or their family members (self-prescribing) and to issue prescriptions every time there is a health risk.



# PRESCRIBING – THE PHARMACISTS' ROLE

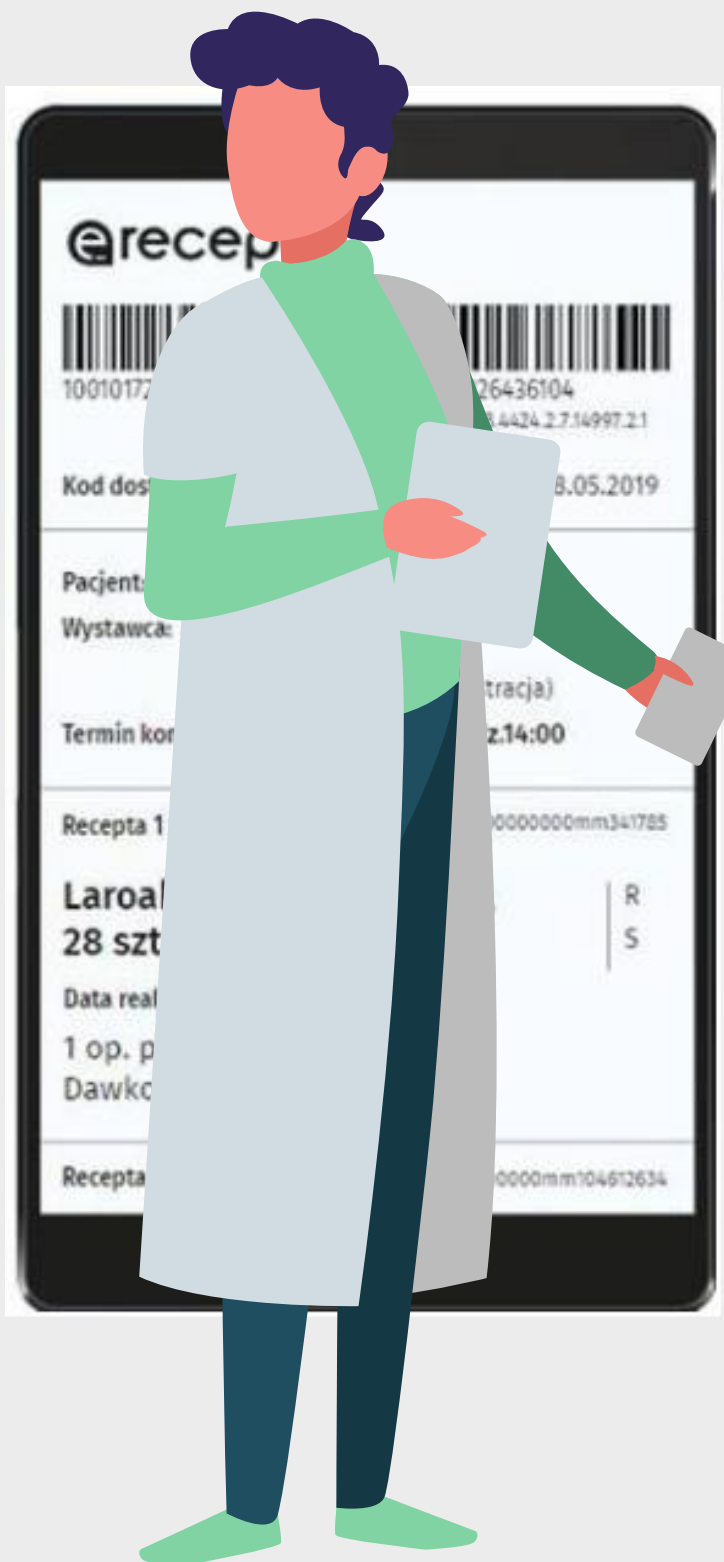
## Pharmacist prescribing- general rules

In Poland, a pharmacist is able to dispense prescription-only medicine **when a patient is unable to present an appropriate prescription.**

This situation commonly occurs when a travelling patient forgets to pack their medication (**patient on holiday**).

Before issuing the prescription, it is necessary **to interview a patient.**

Psychotropic medications and narcotics **are excluded** from these provisions.



# PRESCRIBING – THE PHARMACISTS' ROLE

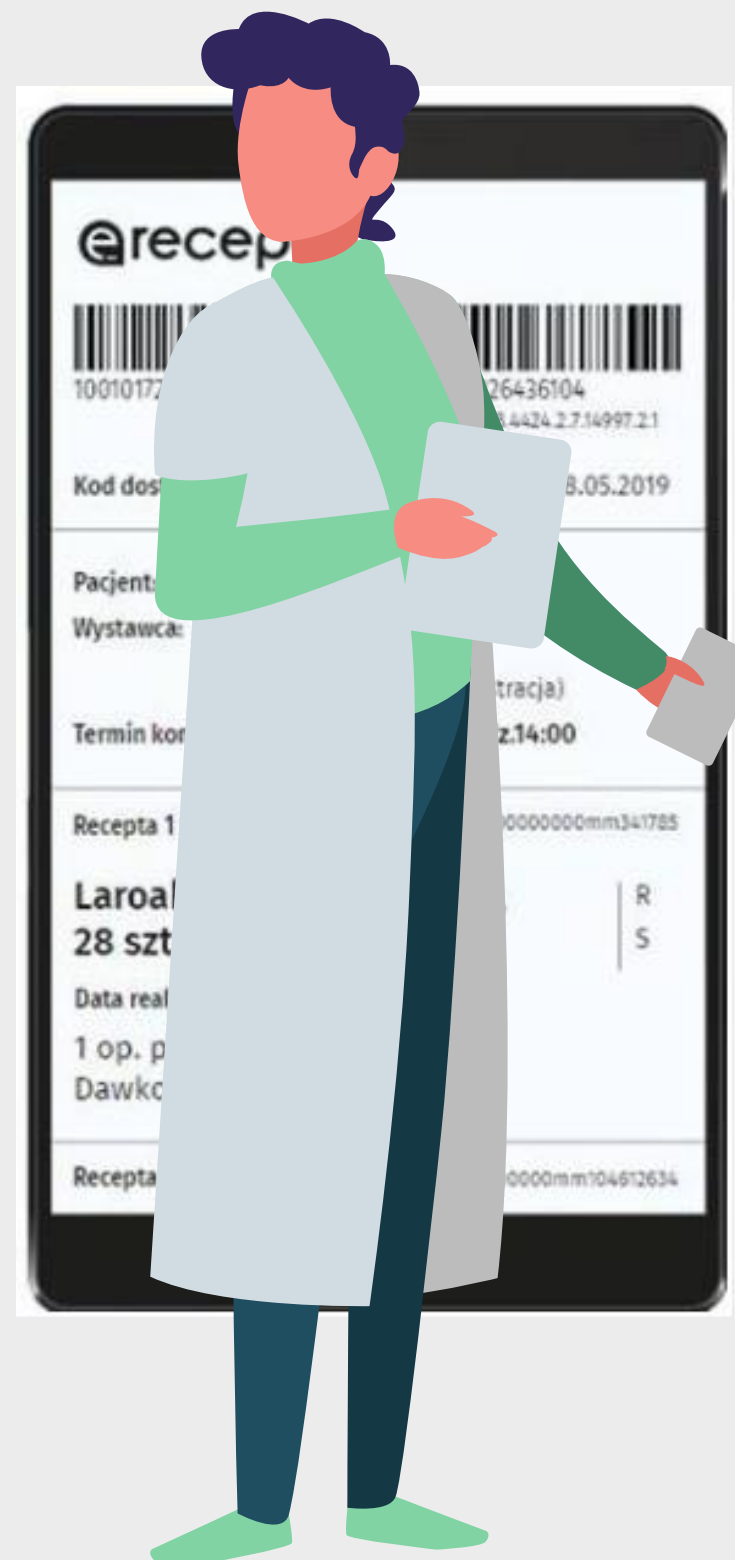
## Pharmacist prescribing- general rules

A prescription can be issued for a **maximum of 180 days** of therapy.

The patient **does not receive any reimbursement from the NHF.**

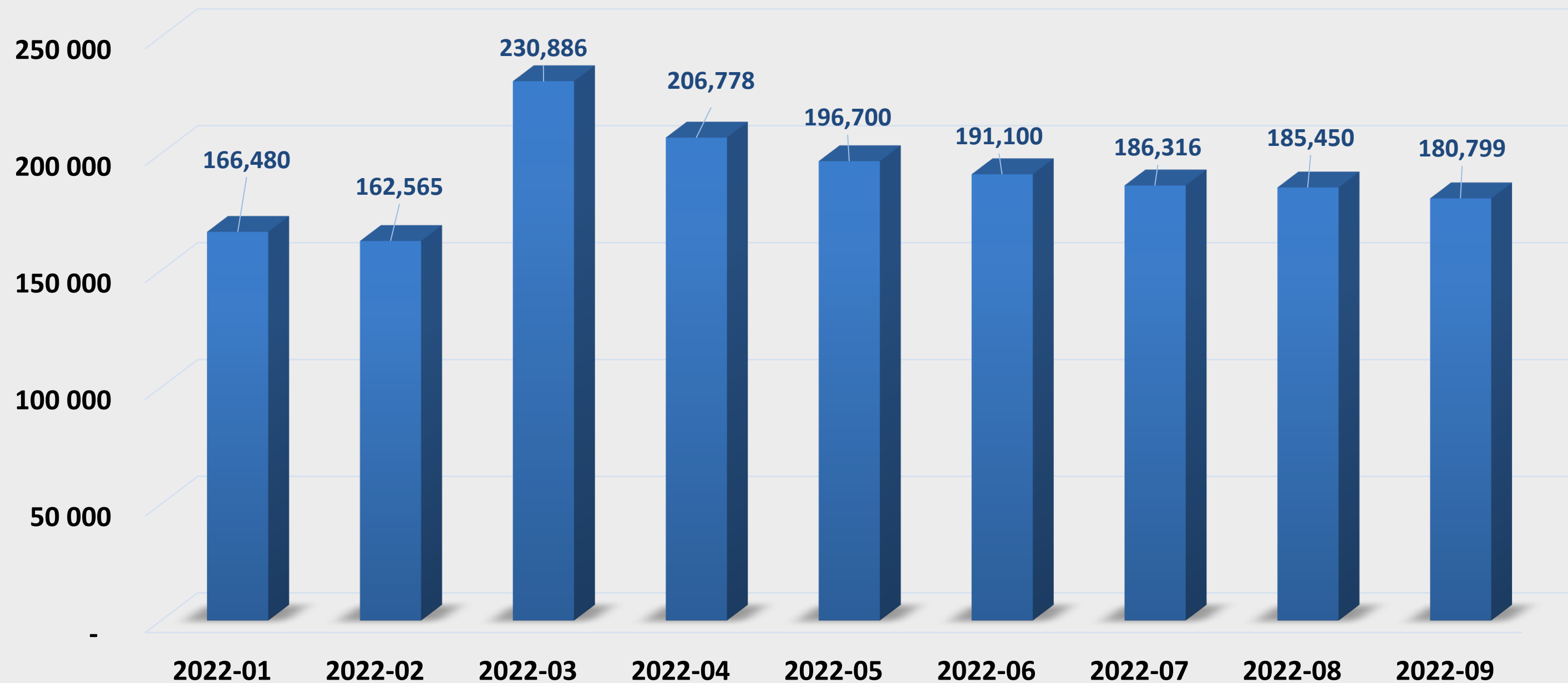
**Important!**

The pharmacist's discretion extends only to the continuation of existing therapy **and does not authorize the pharmacist** to initiate a new one.



# PRESCRIBING – THE PHARMACISTS' ROLE

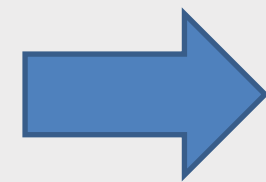
## Pharmacist prescribing in Poland 01.2022-09.2022



# PRESCRIBING – THE PHARMACISTS' ROLE

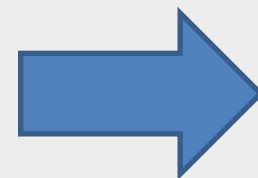
## Pharmacist prescribing in Poland

**The most common reasons** for pharmaceutical prescriptions:



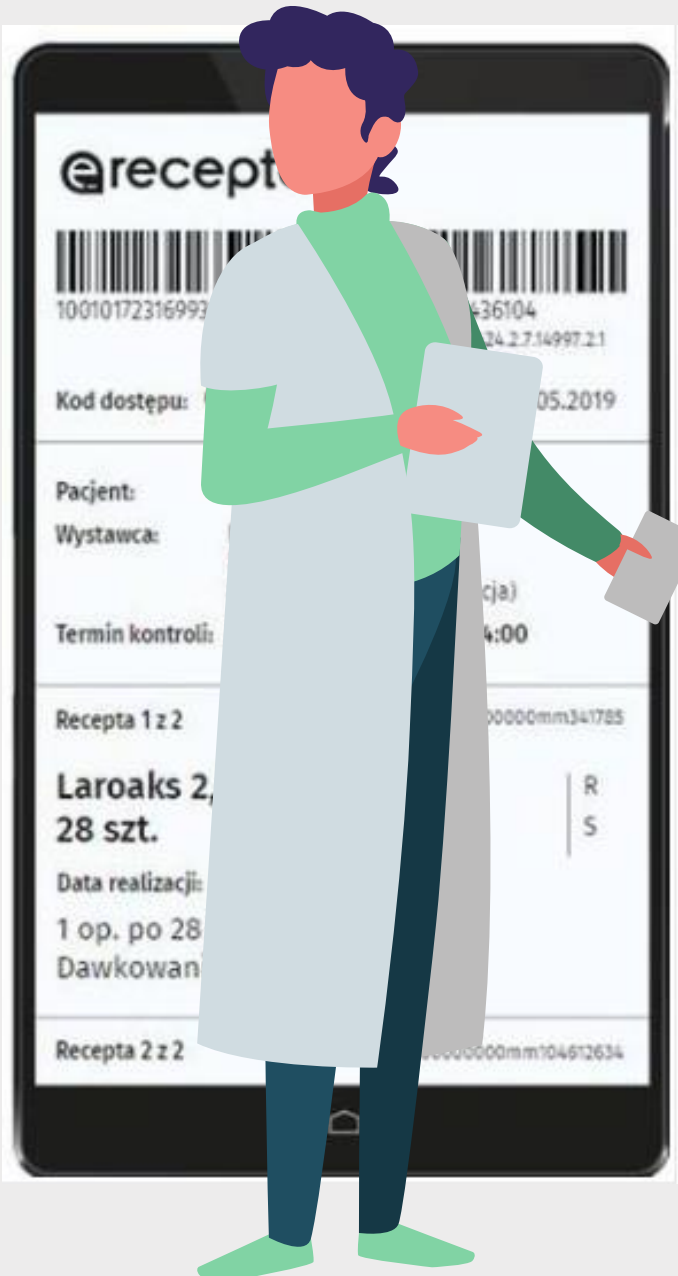
A patient was running out of a medicine and was unable to contact their physician

**The most commonly prescribed medication:**



cardiovascular  
respiratory  
dermatological  
digestive medications

K a t a r z y n a G a n c a r z , M P h a r m





# SELF-PRESCRIBING

## *Pro autore* and *pro familiae* prescriptions - general rules



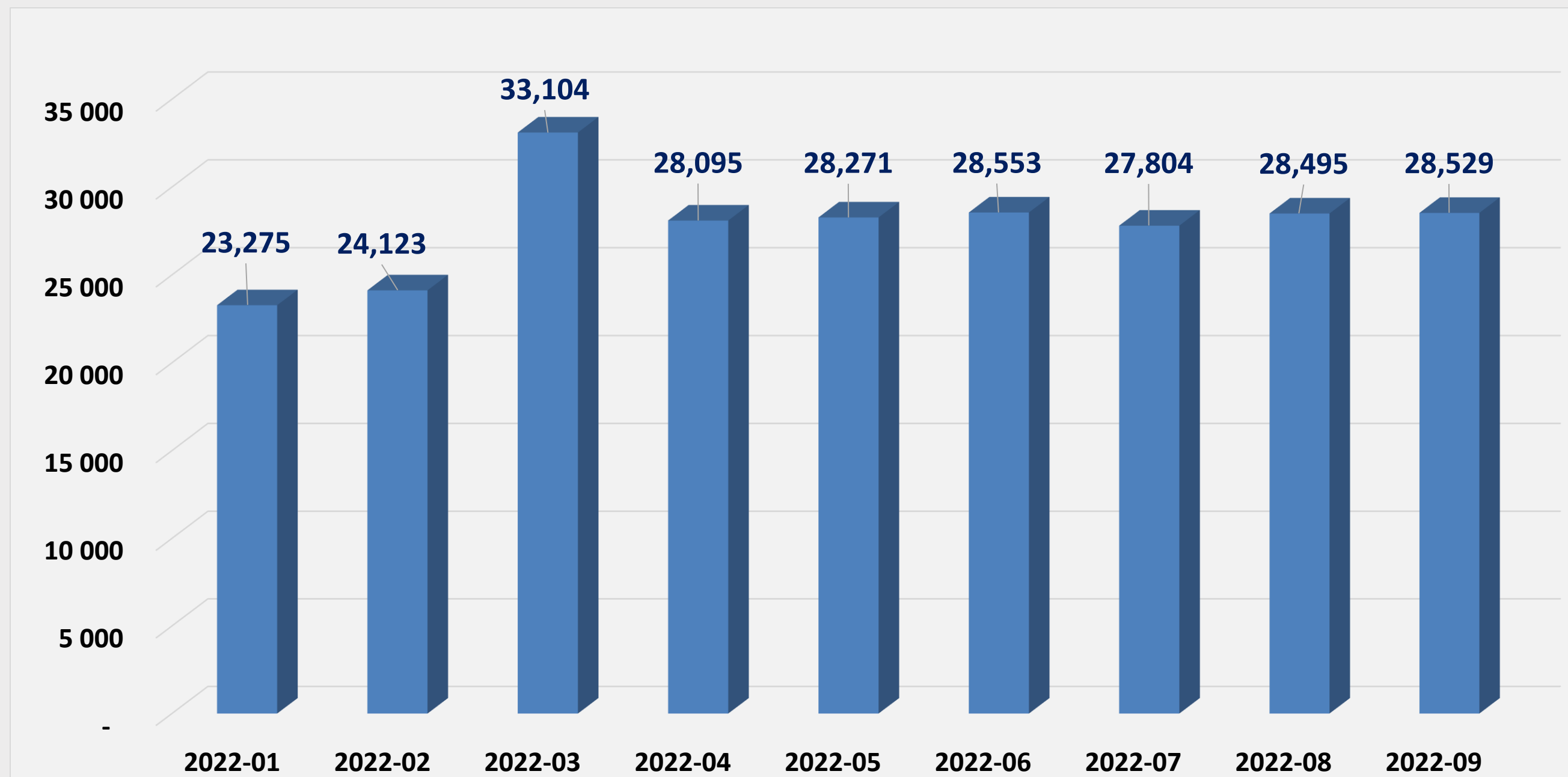
A *pro autore* prescription means a prescription for the prescriber, while a *pro familiae* prescription is issued to a family member of the prescriber.





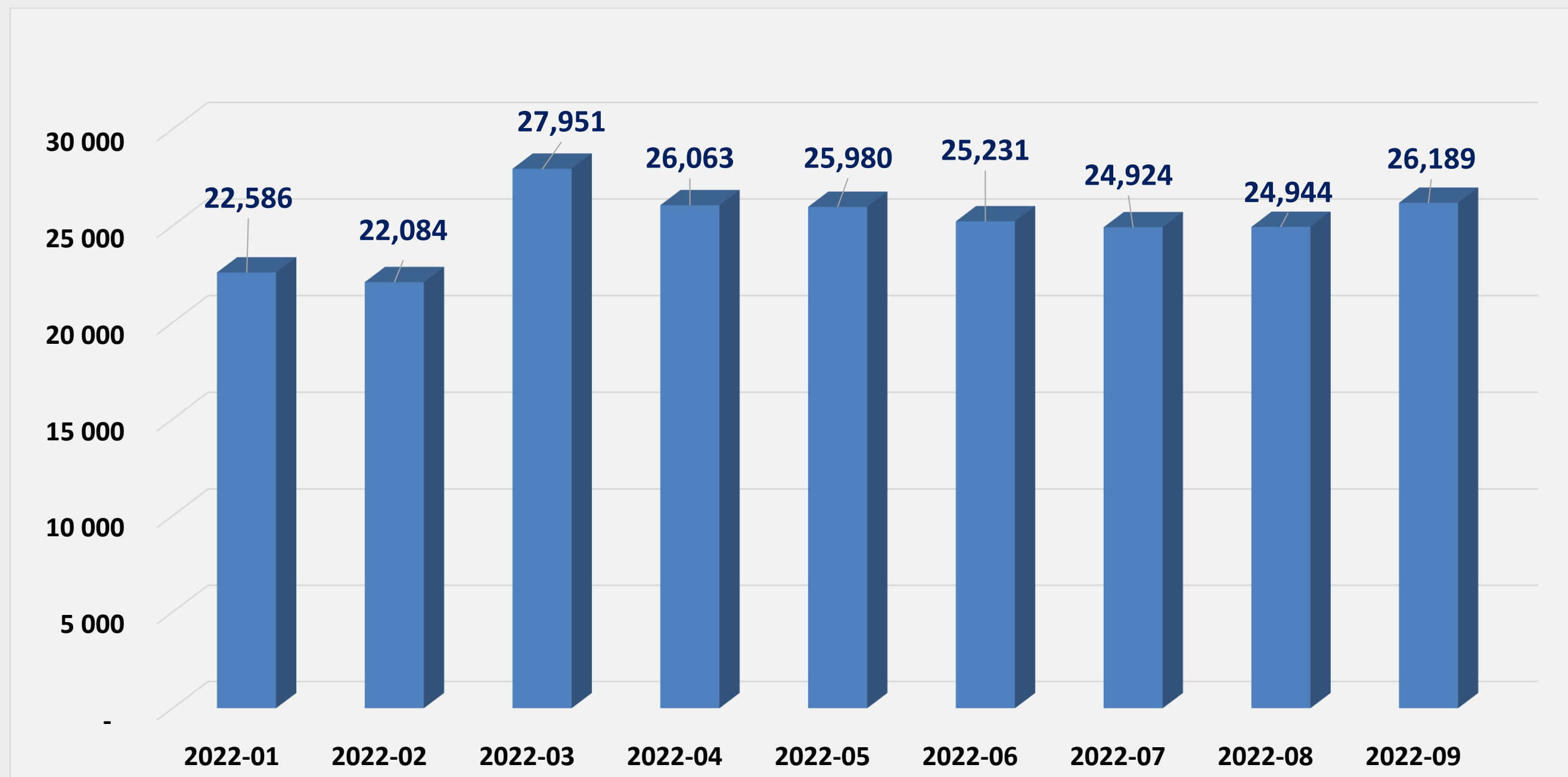
# SELF-PRESCRIBING

Pro autore prescriptions issued by pharmacists in Poland  
01.2022-09.2022



# SELF-PRESCRIBING

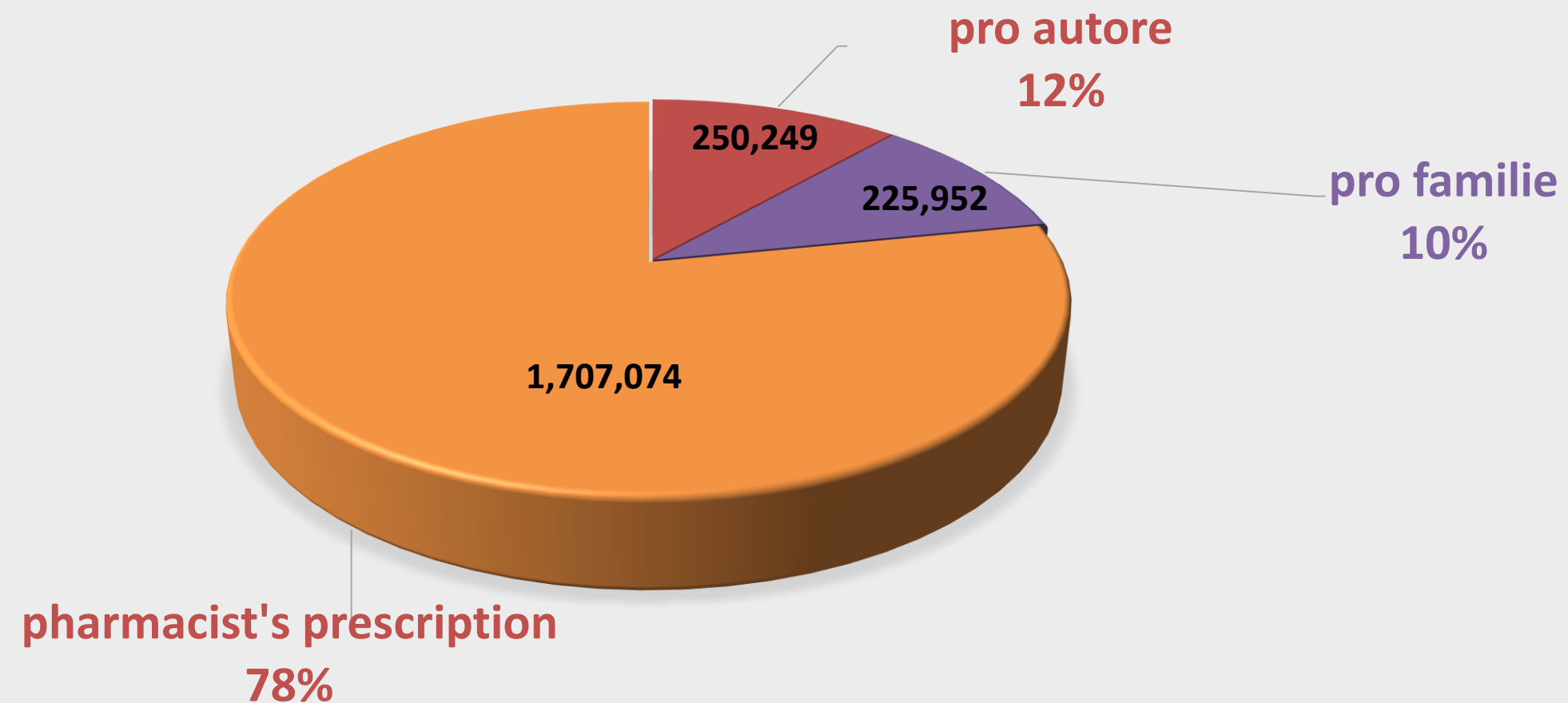
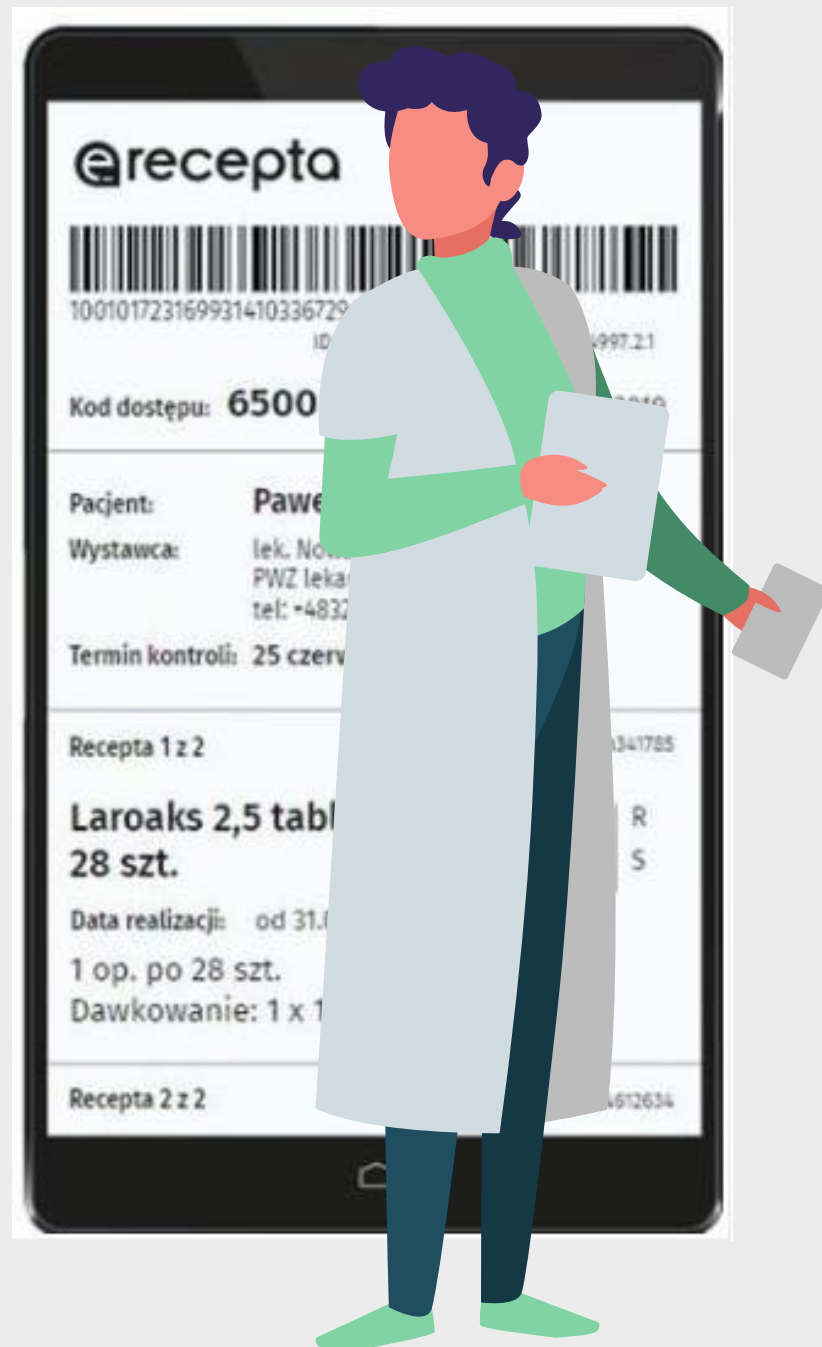
## Pro familiae prescriptions issued by pharmacists in Poland 01.2022-09.2022



# Pharmacist prescribing – SUMMARY

## Pro autore, pro familiae and pharmacist's prescriptions

01.2022-09.2022



**in total - 2,183,275**

# PRESCRIBING – SUMMARY

PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING RULES	BEFORE 8th JANUARY 2020	AFTER 8th JANUARY 2020
Prescription type	Only the paper version	Only the electronic version. The paper version accepted only in exceptional cases.
Reasons for issuing a prescription	Immediate health risk	Health risk
Amount of medicine	The smallest, single registered packet of a given medicine	The amount of medicine required for 180 days of therapy for a given dose
Types of medicines	Prescription-only medicines, except narcotics and psychotropic medication	Prescription-only medicines, except narcotics and psychotropic medication
Reimbursement	0%	0%, excluding prescription issued for the pharmacist himself/herself or his/her family members

Table source: A. Zimmerman, J. Płaczek, N. Wrzosek, A Owczarek, Assessment of Pharmacists Prescribing Practices in Poland—A Descriptive Study, Healthcare (Basel). 2021 Nov; 9(11): 1505.





# OUR EXPECTATIONS

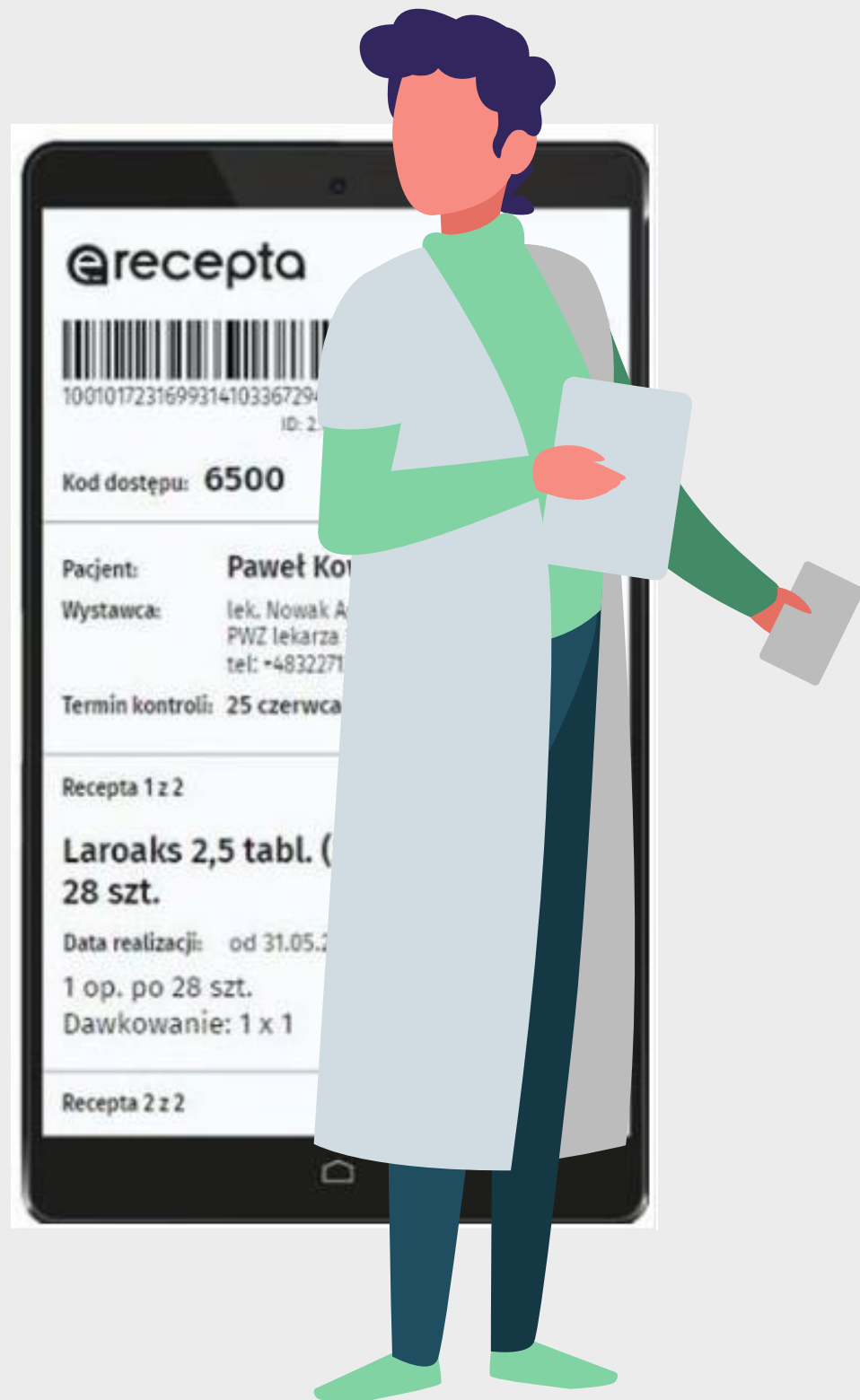




**COVID-19 and flu vaccinations in a pharmacy**



# WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, **the role of Polish community pharmacists has been broadened** with a view to relieving pressure on the national healthcare system.

In April 2021, we were **allowed to participate in the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign**, as healthcare professionals who, after relevant training, are able to vaccinate in the “National Vaccine Points”.





FOT. JA JADĘ TY POMAGASZ



FOT. GŁOS WIELKOPOLSKI



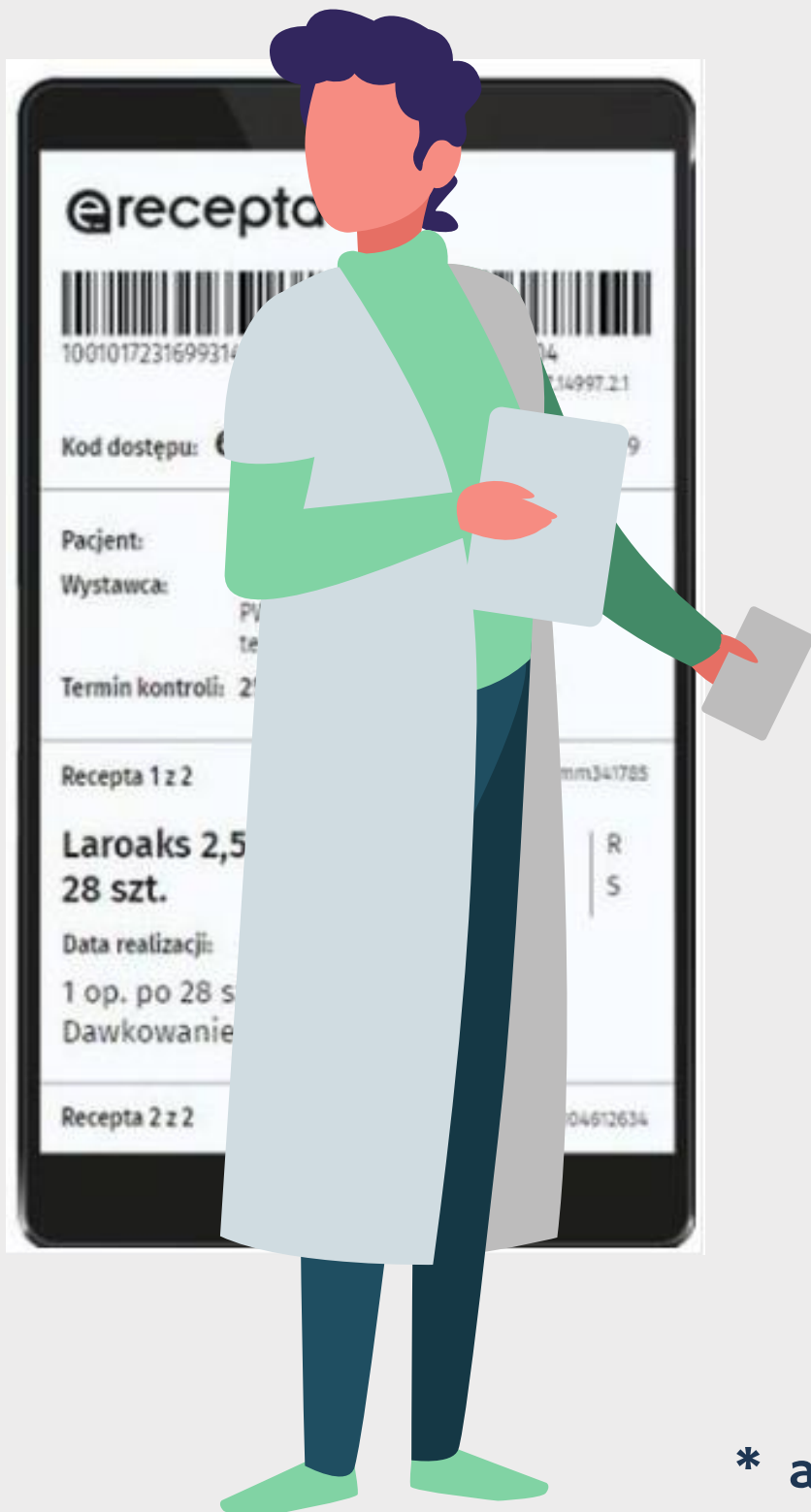
FOT. PORANNY.PL



FOT. GP24.PL



# WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?



Since then, pharmacists have vaccinated almost **2,300,000 patients** against COVID-19.

**Almost 2,000 pharmacies** exist in Poland today where patients can get a COVID-19 vaccination\*

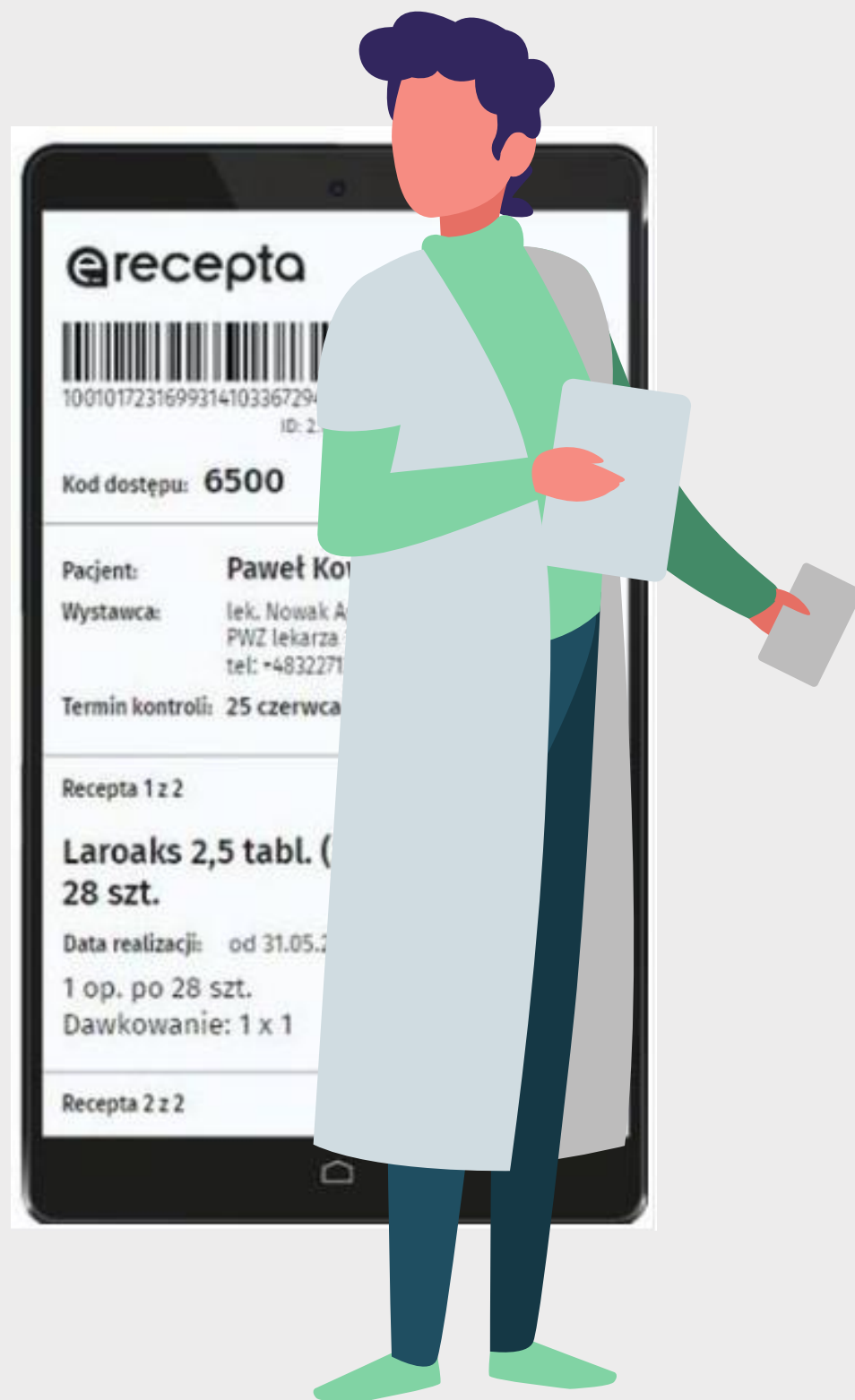
Since 1 September more than **37,000 patients** get a flu vaccination in pharmacy\*\* (flu season 2022/2023).

But...

\* a prescription is not needed, the patient receives a referral from the Ministry of Health directly to the Internet Patient Account (IKP)

\*\* a prescription issued by GP is needed

# WHAT WE EXPECT IN THE FUTURE?



Poland is a country with one of **the lowest influenza vaccination coverage rates** among the EU member states.

In the 2021/2022 influenza season, **only 7%** of the Polish population received the flu vaccine\*.

To raise statistics and expand the pharmacists' role in the national healthcare system, today we offer the flu vaccination at **more than 1,400 pharmacies** in Poland and this number is still growing.

\*In Poland, influenza vaccines are dispensed in pharmacies based on a medical prescription

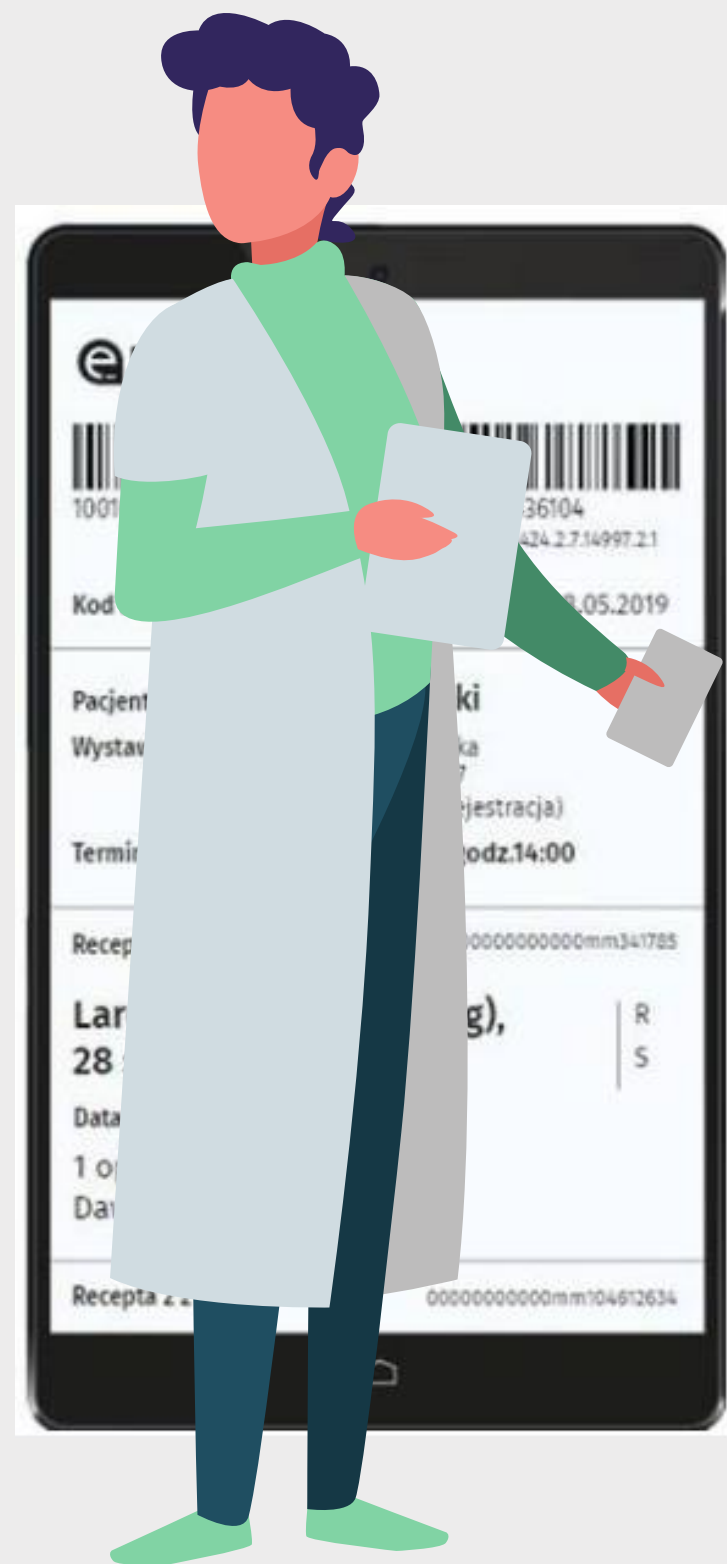


# WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?

# WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING

In order to shorten the patient's path to vaccination, we expect:

- ✓ to be authorized to issue an **e-prescription for flu vaccine**  
or (at least)
- ✓ the Ministry of Health to **issue vaccination referral** directly to the Internet Patient Account (IKP)



# WHAT WE EXPECT IN THE FUTURE?



- ✓ Also as of January 2022, under the „Pharmacist's Profession Act”, pharmacists are authorized to -only with the approval of the GP- **renew repeat prescriptions** for patients with chronic diseases.
- ✓ A repeat prescription can be issued by a pharmacist for a **maximum of 360 days** of therapy.
- ✓ Psychotropic medications and narcotics **are excluded** from these provisions.



**WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?**

# WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?



- ✓ This pharmaceutical care service, due to the lack of adequate IT solutions, **is still not available** for patients.
- ✓ We look forward to the **urgent implementation** of this service by the e-Health Centre.

Thank you for your attention!



Polish Pharmaceutical Chamber