



ARE OTC DRUGS
REIMBURSED IN
GERMANY?

Since 1 January 2004, all
OTC drugs are **excluded**
from coverage by SHI
funds and thus
reimbursement.



However, in **exceptional cases** where the OTC product is considered to be the standard treatment for serious illnesses, it will be **reimbursed**.



Pharmaceutical companies
can apply for an OTC product
to be added to the list of
exceptions.



They need to prove that:

- the **illness is serious**, i.e. it is life-threatening or permanently affecting the HRQL due to its severity
- the **OTC drug is the therapy standard**, i.e. its therapeutic benefit for treating the serious illness reflects current accepted medical knowledge



If all the required
documentation was
submitted, the G-BA will
decide on each application
within 90 days.



**Gemeinsamer
Bundesausschuss**