From Limited Access to Rising Expenditure: Trends in Imported Medicines Dispensed Through Public Outpatient Pharmacies in Greece, 2020-2025

#HPR159

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KEY FINDING

IFET expenditure rose almost fivefold. Orphan medicines accounted for 58.8% of the expenditure increase.



Background & objective

Medicines imported by the Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Technology (IFET) have not entered standard reimbursement through assessment and price negotiation. They receive exceptional state coverage and are supplied through EOPYY pharmacies.

Objective: assess IFET expenditure and dispensing trends, with emphasis on orphan medicines.

Methods

Descriptive analysis of purchase-invoice and dispensing data (2020–2025) from the National Organization for Healthcare Services Provision (EOPYY). Orphan status followed annual European Medicines Agency (EMA) designation for at least one indication.

Outcomes: acquisition expenditure, dispensed packages and distinct trade names.

€308.7m

Total IFET acquisition expenditure in 2025

€62.1m in 2020 · +397.2%

€174.4m

Orphan medicines (IFET) Expenditure in 2025

€29.4m in 2020 · +493.4%

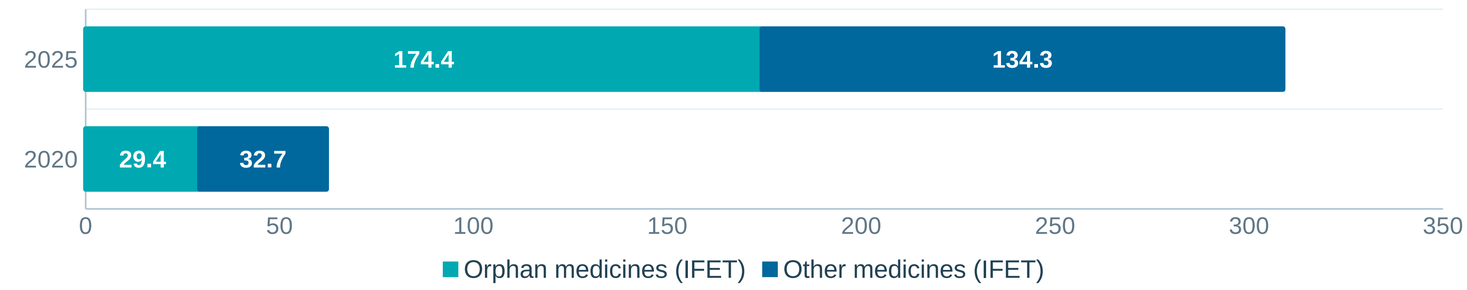
56.5%

Orphan share of IFET expenditure in 2025

47.3% in 2020 · +9.2 pp

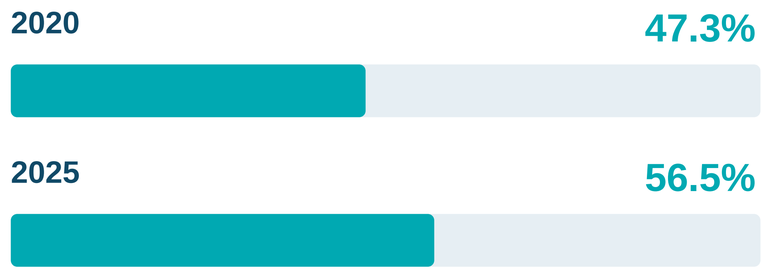
Expenditure growth

Acquisition expenditure (€ million), 2020 vs 2025



CAGR 2020–2025: total 37.8% · orphan 42.8%

Orphan share



+9.2 percentage points

Dispensing volume & product portfolio

All medicines (IFET) Dispensed packages

2020	2025
13,699	93,395

+581.8% growth

Orphan medicines (IFET) Dispensed packages

2020	2025
5,524	19,590

+254.6% growth

All medicines (IFET) Trade names

2020	2025
128	204

+59.4% growth

Orphan medicines (IFET) Trade names

2020	2025
28	45

+60.7% growth

Contribution to expenditure growth

€145.0m

Increase in expenditure on orphan medicines (IFET) within the €246.6m total IFET increase

58.8% of the total increase

2020–2025, based on unrounded values

Conclusions & relevance

Orphan medicines accounted for 58.8% of the increase in IFET expenditure and 56.5% of spending in 2025.

Their share of dispensed IFET packages fell from 40.3% to 21.0%, alongside an expanding product portfolio.

Budget planning benefits from monitoring the orphan subgroup alongside total IFET expenditure and dispensing.

Interpretive limits

Invoice expenditure measures purchases, whereas package counts measure dispensing. Their ratio does not establish acquisition cost per package. Annual orphan groups may contain different products. These data do not establish net payer expenditure or treatment access.

Abbreviations: EOPYY, National Organization for Healthcare Services Provision; IFET, Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Technology; EMA, European Medicines Agency; CAGR, compound annual growth rate; pp, percentage points. Source: EOPYY administrative data, 2020–2025.