SK&S Sołtysiński Kawecki Szlęzak



LIFE SCIENCES MONITOR

October 2026

Medicinal products / Clinical trials / Medical devices / Healthcare / Medical Professions / Biotechnology / Reimbursement / Pharmacies / Veterinary medicine / Food Supplements / Cosmetics / Food / Alcoholic Beverages / Tobacco Products

HEALTHCARE ENTITIES AND PHARMACIES

Ban on advertising pharmacies — Act submitted to the President for signature

On 23 October 2026, the Act amending the Pharmaceutical Law was submitted to the President for signature. The President has signed the Act on 13 November. The Act provides for the abolition of the total ban on advertising of pharmacies and pharmacy outlets ("**pharmacy advertising"),** which was found by the Court of Justice of the European Union to be incompatible with EU law. The Act introduces:

- a definition of pharmacy advertising,
- conditions for conducting pharmacy advertising , and
- provisions sanctioning pharmacy advertising in breach of the Act.

The full text of the Act can be found here: link.

MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Draft reimbursement Act submitted to the Sejm

On 30 October 2026, a government draft act amending the Act on the Reimbursement of Medicines, Foodstuffs for Special Nutritional Purposes and Medical Devices, and certain other Acts, was submitted to the Sejm. The draft provides for the introduction of **a number of changes to the reimbursement system** with a view to improving its functioning, including the introduction:

- of procedural changes, such as the abolition of the obligation to provide evidence of a medicine's availability on the market at the time of submitting a reimbursement application;
- of provisions enabling faster reimbursement of medicines in foreign-language packaging;
- of the possibility for representatives of patient organisations to participate in meetings of the coordination teams for medicines programmes;
- into the Act of the Decision Support System for Medicines Policy (PL: '**SWDPL**') – an ICT system supporting the activities of state authorities in the field of medicines policy, in which data on medicinal products, foodstuffs for special nutritional purposes and medical devices are processed and analysed.

The full text of the draft can be found here: link.

Amendments to the Act on Food Safety - draft act

On 26 October 2026, a draft act amending the Act on Food and Nutrition Safety and the Act on the State Sanitary Inspection was submitted to the Committee on European Affairs. The draft aims to bring the Act into line with EU legislation and introduces, amongst other things **, changes concerning the procedure for notifying the Sanitary Inspectorate** (PL: **„GIS"**) **of the first placing on the market within the territory of Poland of foodstuffs referred to in Article 29 of the Act**. The draft provides for an exemption from the obligation to notify the GIF of the first placing on the market of foodstuffs to which vitamins and minerals are mandatorily added, as well as a provision specifying that notifications regarding the first placing on the market of specific foodstuffs are to be made via the e-Sanepid platform.

The full text of the draft can be found here: link.

Sugar levy on drinks

On 23 October 2026, an Act amending the Public Health Act was submitted to the Senate. The Act introduces changes aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the collection of the levy on foodstuffs (the so-called **'sugar levy'**) by broadening the definition of beverages subject to the levy and **updating its rate**.

The Act also provides for the addition of a provision containing a new definition of the term 'concentrate'. According to the explanatory memorandum, the current rate of the sugar levy is insufficient to influence consumer behaviour and thus achieve the intended health objectives. Following the submission of the Act to the Senate, amendments were introduced to it and it was referred to the Public Finance Committee and the Health Committee. On 6 November, the Act was submitted to the President for signature.

The full text of the Act can be found here: link.



ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Act amending the Act on Upbringing in Sobriety in the Senate

On 8 October 2026, the Sejm passed an Act amending the Act on Upbringing in Sobriety and Counteracting Alcoholism and the Act on Healthcare Services Financed from Public Funds. As a reminder: the Act introduces **a number of changes to the alcoholic beverages market**, such as the inclusion of beer in the ban on advertising and promotion, new obligations for packaging of alcoholic beverages and increased penalties for illegal advertising and promotion. During the legislative process in the Sejm, significant amendments were made to the text of the Act, including provisions concerning the regulation of the distance sale of alcoholic beverages and the organisation of so-called 'enoculinary' events. On 9 October, the Act was referred to the Senate, where, during a sitting on 6 November, a number of additional amendments were introduced.

The full text of the Act submitted to the Senate can be found here: link.

New draft act amending the Alcohol Act

On 12 October 2026, a draft act amending the Act on Upbringing in Sobriety and Counteracting Alcoholism, drafted by a group of PiS MPs, was published in the Sejm's list of drafts under consultation. The draft proposes further amendments to the Alcohol Act – a ban on the marketing or sale of alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content exceeding 12 % in individual containers with a nominal capacity of less than 500 ml.

The full text of the draft can be found here: link.

Increase in excise duty on alcohol

On 28 October 2026, the Act amending the Excise Duty Act and the Act on Healthcare Services Financed from Public Funds was submitted to the President for signature. The Act provides for an increase in excise duty rates on alcoholic beverages such as:

ethyl alcohol
beer and wine
cider and perry, and other fermented drinks
intermediate products (PL: „wyroby pośrednie")

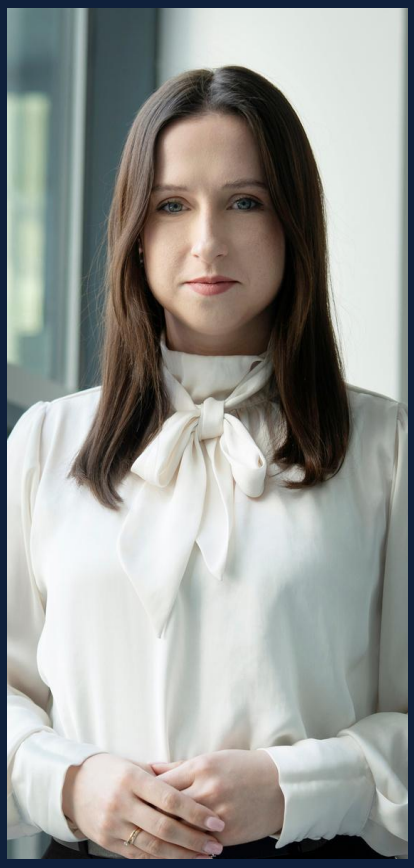
The full text of the Act can be found here: link.

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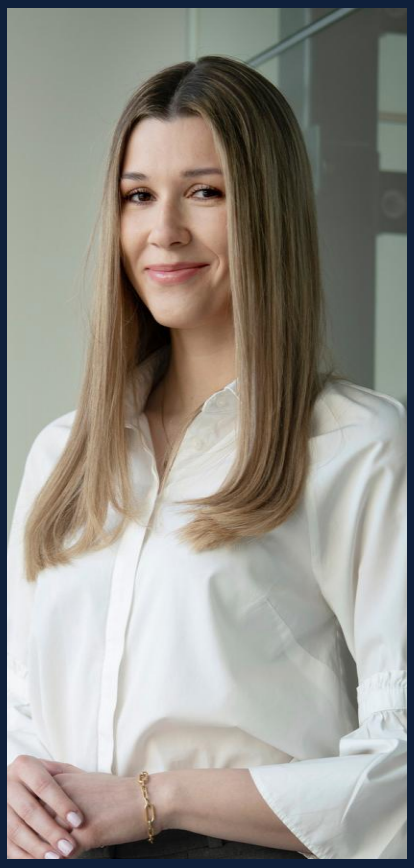
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