

# Environmental criteria in medicine procurement

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## Background

Environmental criteria haven't been used in Finland in hospital procurements earlier. We created the criteria which would be acceptable to all parties (hospitals, suppliers), would be reliably assessed, and easily copied to other hospitals.

Price has been the most prominent criteria in procurement quality being the second. Environmental aspects haven't been assessed earlier. Differences between the pharmaceuticals' environmental burden can be considerable and by choosing wisely we would be more sustainable.

## Aim and objectives

To create environmental criteria acceptable for providers and for hospitals and to evaluate their usability.

## Materials and methods

Our tender had six questions for everyone and two more questions for antibiotics or hormones. The common questions were answered by yes / no / we don't know. Points given were 0, 1, 2. An example of the common question is: Does the company has a plan how to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by itself.

Questions for antibiotics and estrogen hormones were: Company has told in which country, and in which plant the API is produced and the formulation happens.

## Common questions to all providers

**Provider means here the company which is producing the medicines.**

**If the company was selling products, they had not produced they had to find these questions from the originator.**

- 1. Does the provider have a reduction target for the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused from its own action yes / no**
- 2. Does the provider have an action plan to use renewable energy sources for eg electricity, transporting, packaking ? yes / no**
- 3. How many % of the provider's energy consumption was renewable last time it was checked?**
- 4. How many % of the company's energy consumption will be renewable year 2030 (when our hospital should be carbon negative)?**
- 5. Has the company committed to Paris Agreement? yes / no**
- 6. Can the provider guarantee the appropriate wastewater treatment in the plans their products are produced? yes / no**

## Criteria for antibiotics

- 1. The provider can specify the country and the site where API have been produced**
- 2. The provider can specify the country and the site where the formulation happens**

## Results

We had 172 providers, from which 4 were rejected because of lacking or false information. Quality of answers varied considerably; 65 companies got full 12 points (2 points / question) and 38 companies got 0 points. There were 12 companies which were able to answer to only one question; the easiest question was the first one "Does the company have plans to diminish carbon dioxide emissions caused by its own operation", only 4 companies /172 were not able to answer this. The most difficult question was "Is the company committed to Paris Agreement?".

Questions for antibiotics created a large discrepancy. 41 companies provided antibiotics; 15 of them were not able to answer these questions acceptable, which is against the law. Anyone selling medicines must be able to tell the manufacturing site precisely. This problem needs to be discussed further.

## Conclusions

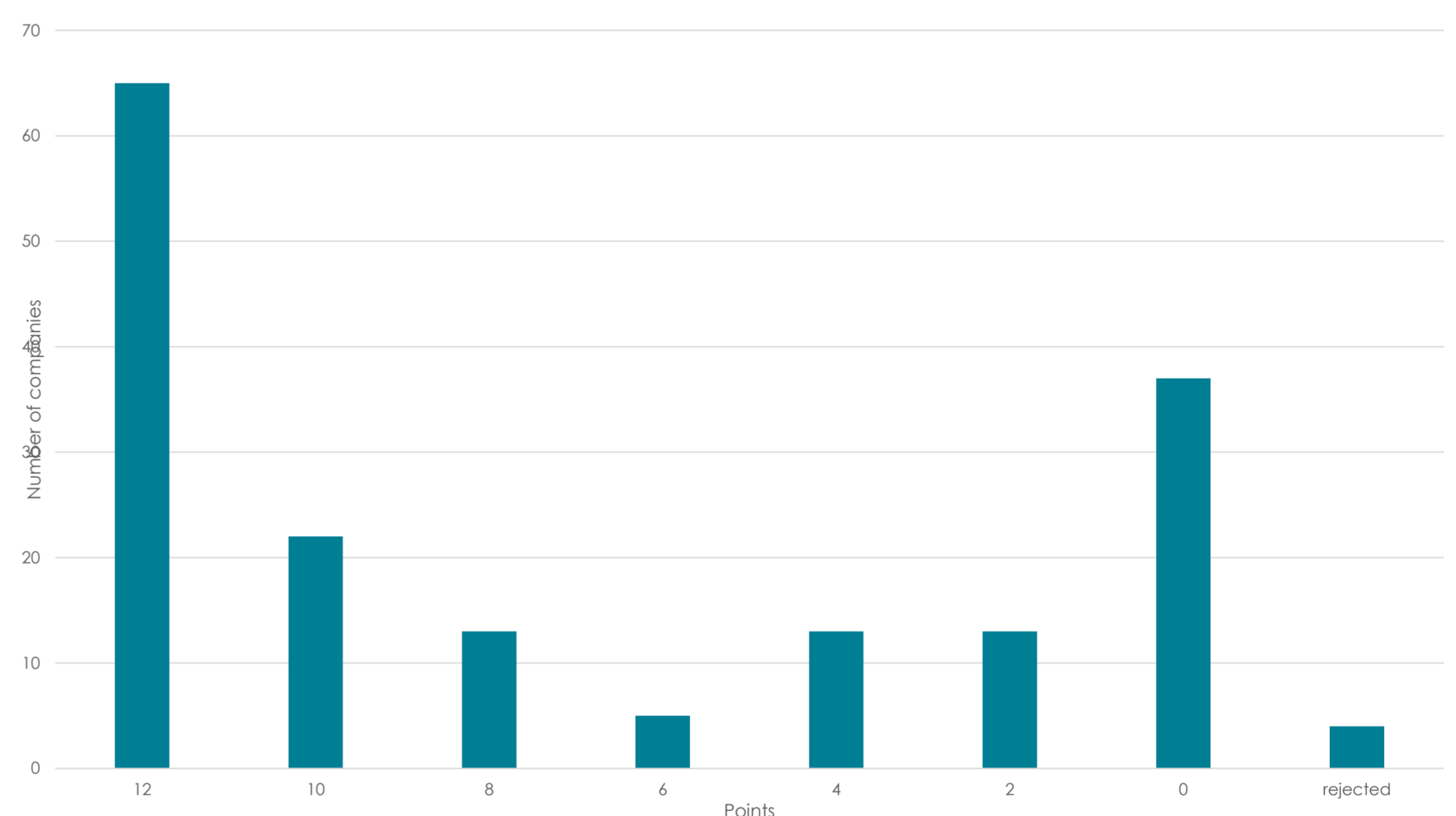
The answers showed that the questions were not too difficult; these questions could be answered, and the answers could be analysed.

The criteria were very simple and assessing the answers was not difficult. Questions were universal and can be used in other hospitals, too, which is the wish from the industry (same questions everywhere). Wide range of results showed the differences between the companies.

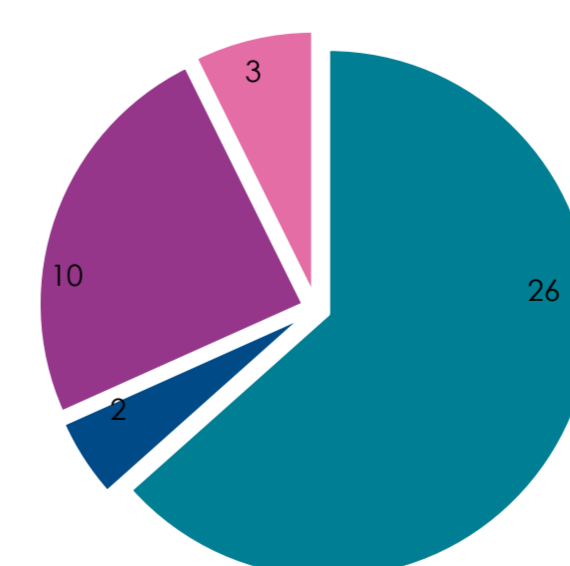
During this round we didn't give any credit for the best products, but more discussion is needed in the future.

Should the more responsible products be rewarded or providers unable to answer the questions be shut out from the procurements.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem but if the company doesn't know where the products are manufactured how can they be responsible of the wastewater treatment of their products.



172 providers and points they earned from environmental criteria (max 12 points)



■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 0 ■ points

No one received 1 point

41 providers with antimicrobial products

