

# BIG ECONOMIC GAIN IN IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR WET AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION, DIABETIC MACULAR OEDEMA AND RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION

(GPI no.:SPD7173)

## What was done

An expert committee prepared a national treatment guideline including a comparison report of clinical medicines for the treatment of wAMD, DME and RVO.

The aim was to create uniform treatment across the country and to trigger competition between medicines in the hope of achieving lower prices.

## Why it was done

The consumption of medicine for the treatment of wAMD, DME and RVO is increasing. The medicines used are in top 5 of most expensive drugs in Denmark.

With the prospect of more patients, greater costs and the introduction of new drugs in the field, there was a stated need to develop a national treatment guidelines.

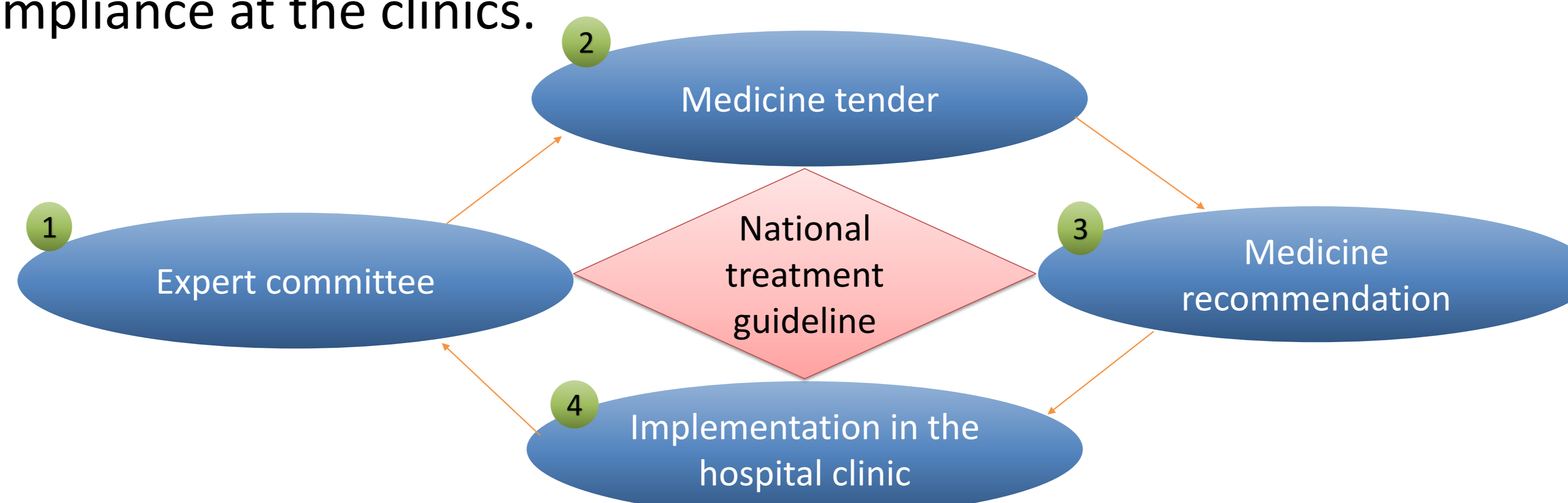
## How it was done

An expert committee consisting of physicians, clinical pharmacist, clinical pharmacologist, and medicine procurement pharmacist was appointed.

The committee prepared a national treatment guideline including a clinical medicine comparison report based on existing clinical evidence and Danish practice. The committee reached the conclusion that the anti-VEGF drugs ranibizumab (Lucentis®) and aflibercept (Eylea®) are ranked equally in terms of effect and side effects. The choice of anti-VEGF should be determined solely by price and dosage.

A tender was prepared in alignment with the guidelines. The result led to the development of a medicine recommendation, which was passed on to hospital pharmacies, clinical pharmacists and physicians to ensure implementation in the clinic.

Feedback from the clinics on estimated consumption was forwarded to the drug suppliers and was continuously monitored by the procurement pharmacist to ensure compliance at the clinics.

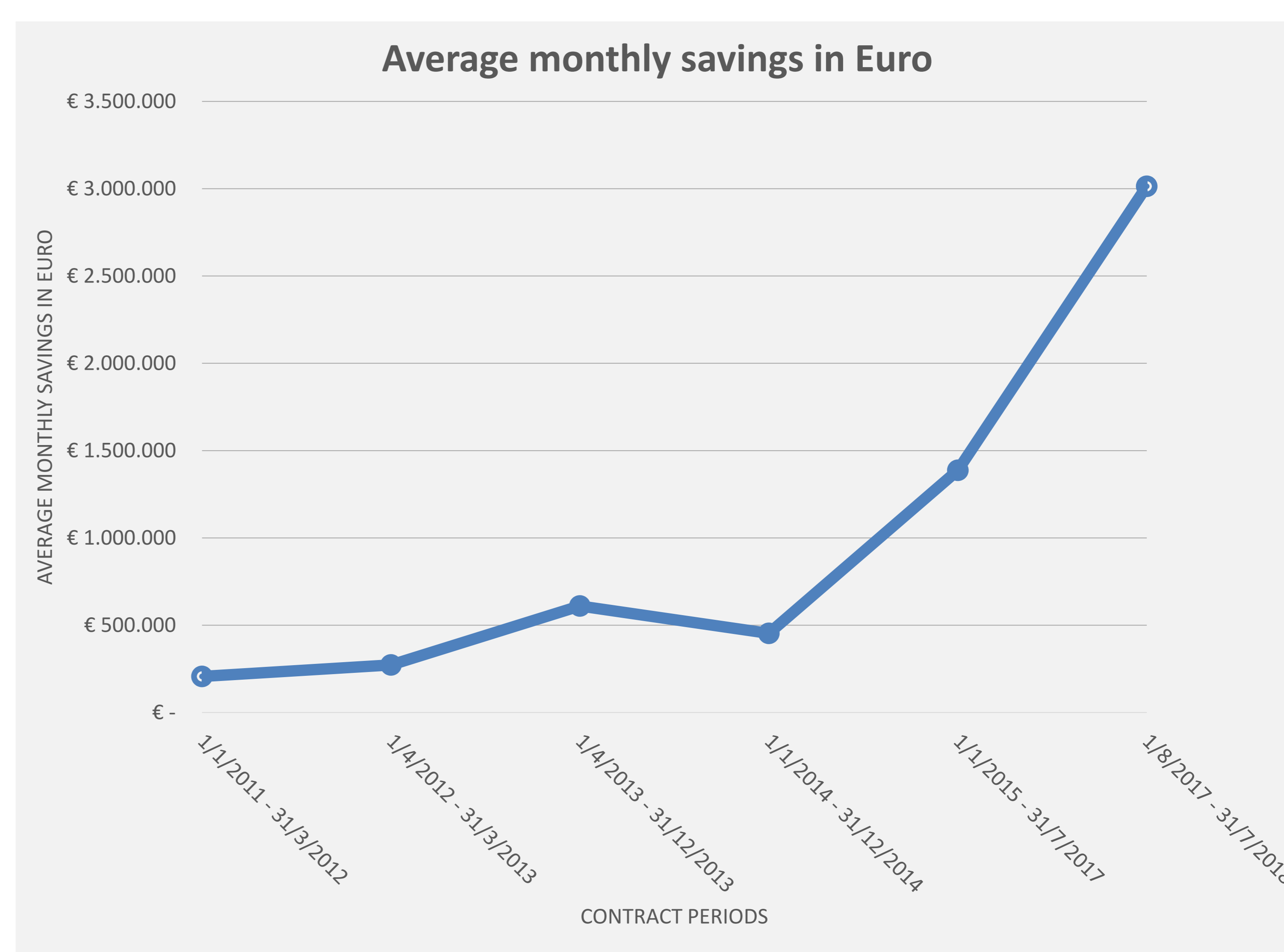
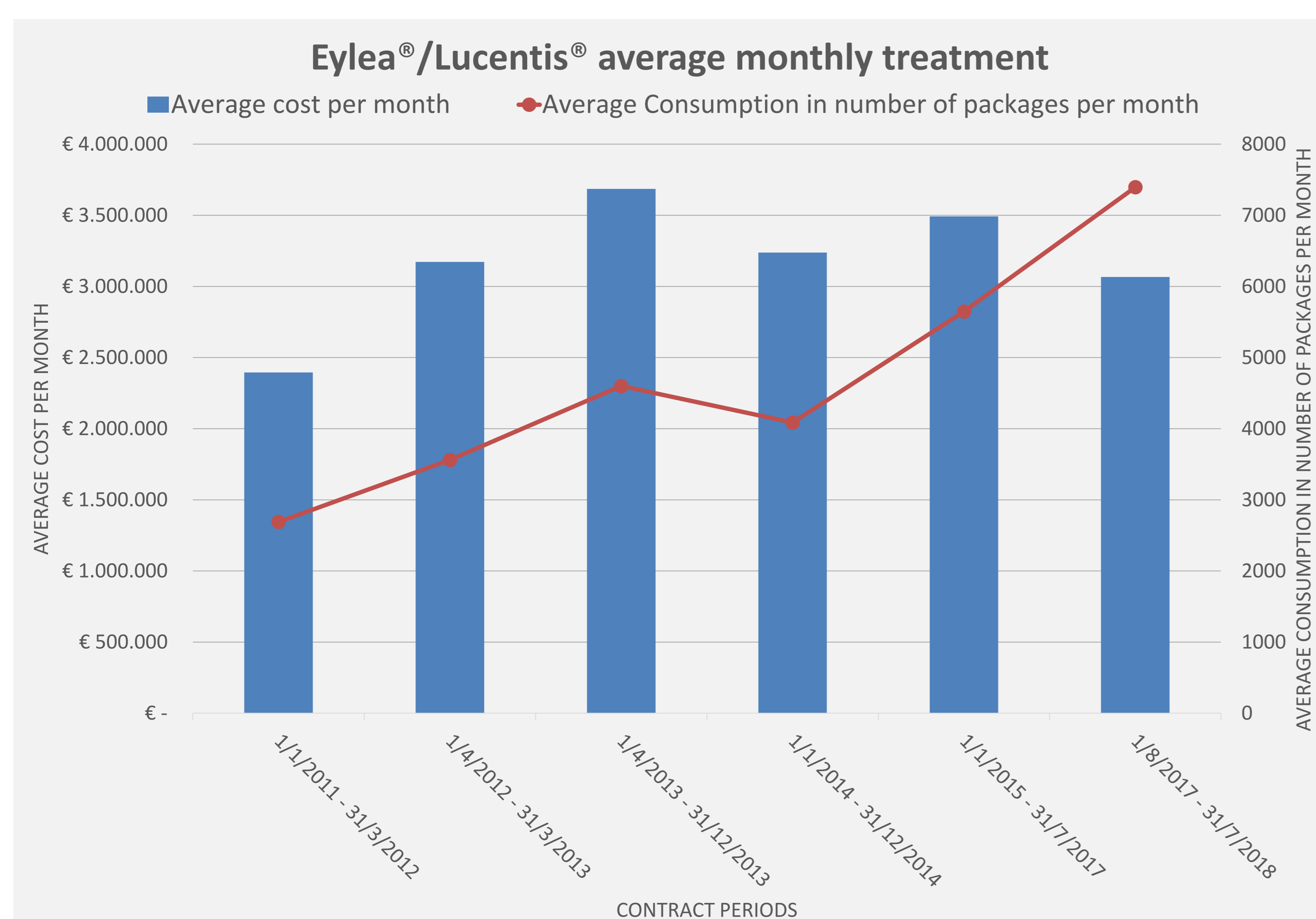


## What was achieved

The clinicians switched patients to the new 1st line choice. Market share of 1st line treatment was 89% compared to 25% before implementations of the guidelines.

Two tenders were published based on the guidelines. The first resulted in a price reduction of 28%, the second a reduction of 54%.

Total actual savings in the first tender (based on 31-month contract period) were € 38 millions. In the second tender (based on first 12-months of the contract period) total actual savings were € 35 millions.



## What is next

New medicines are expected to be approved in the near future. We will continue to use and develop national treatment guidelines in combination with tender procedures and proper implementation of guidelines to obtain better and cheaper treatment options for patients.

