



Socioeconomic

Population¹

791 530 (2024)

Life expectancy at birth²

73 years (2023)

GDP/capita (current US\$)³

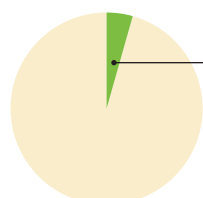
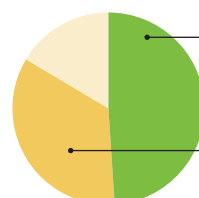
US\$ 3839.4 (2023)



Spending on health

Current health expenditure
(CHE)/capita (current US\$)⁴

US\$ 154.49 (2022)

4.39%
Current health
expenditure as share
of GDP⁴48.96% (2022)
Government health
expenditure (% of CHE)⁴
34.57% (2022)
Out-of-pocket
expenditure (% of CHE)⁴

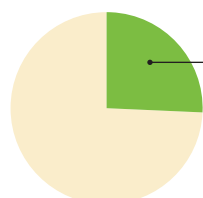
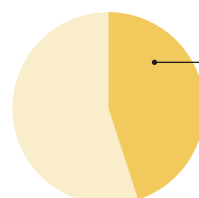
Spending on pharmaceuticals

Government pharmaceutical
expenditure

No data

Government pharmaceutical
expenditure/capita

No data

25.70%
Pharmaceutical
expenditure (% of CHE)⁵45% (2022)
Share of out-of-pocket
expenditure on
pharmaceuticals⁶

Medical and pharmacy workforce

Medical doctors/
10 000 population⁷

5.53 (2022)

Pharmacists/
10 000 population⁷

0.68 (2022)

Pharmacy education
accreditation⁸

Yes

Continuing professional
development for pharmacists⁸

Yes



Pharmaceutical legislation and policy

- 2003 The Medicines Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan
- 2007 National Drug Policy
- 2011 National Immunization Policy and Strategic Guidelines
- 2012 Bhutan Medicines Rules and Regulation
- 2018–2022 National Action Plan on AMR
- 2019 Bhutan Medicines Rules and Regulation
- 2023 Bhutan National Essential Medicines List



Intellectual property rights



TRIPS flexibilities
incorporated into
the law



TRIPS flexibilities
utilized

No data



Rational use and antimicrobial resistance

% of market share of
non-EML products

No data

WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and
Use Surveillance System enrollment⁹:

Yes, 2020

Total consumption of antibiotics:

No data

FDC sales in the
private market

No data

Number of antibiotics on the private market

	Total	AWaRe			Not recommended
		Access	Watch	Reserve	
Single drugs			No data		
FDCs			No data		

Market
entry

National Regulatory Authority

Bhutan Food and Drug Authority

Website: www.dra.gov.bt

Staff: No data

Annual budget: No data

Products regulated¹⁰

☒ Medicines

☒ Biologicals

☐ Medical
devices

☒ Traditional
medicines

Licensing of establishments¹¹

☐ Manufacturers

☐ Importers

☐ Exporters

☐ Wholesellers

☐ Distributors

☐ Retailers

National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory¹²

None

☐ ISO 17025
certified

☐ WHO
prequalified

Rational
selectionBody responsible for selection of medical products¹³

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Division, Department of
health Services

☐ HTA used in the selection process¹¹

☒ NEML incorporated AWaRE list

☒ Medicines listed by level of care

☒ Traditional medicines included

National Essential Medicines List (number of active ingredient)

1994

2016
429 medicines

2021
432 medicines

2023
428 medicines

National Medicines Formulary

2015

2017

National Essential Diagnostics List⁸: Yes

Purchasing



Public sector

☒ Procurement⁸: Centralized

Agency responsible for procurement: Quantification and Procurement Division, Department of Medical Products

LMIS used: Yes

Frequency of tender: Annual

Private sector

☒ Social Health Insurance

Name of SHI scheme: No data

Population coverage: No data

Number of products covered: No data

Pricing regulation

Pricing regulatory authority¹³

Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (partially)

Public sector

Tendering¹⁴: Yes

Private sector

Maximum retail price¹⁴: Yes

Number of price controlled products: 2112 medicines

2012

Bhutan Medicines Rules
and Regulation

2019

Bhutan Medicines Rules
and Regulation

Market distribution

Estimated pharmaceutical market value¹⁵

Nu. 1,446 million (2019)

Public

Tertiary hospitals: 3

Secondary hospitals: 28

PHC facilities: 3 RRHs; 55 secondary hospitals;
Primary – 187 PHCs, 53 sub posts, 542 ORCs

Private

Manufacturers: 7

Importers: 49

Wholesellers/distributors: 49

Retail pharmacies: 126

Market exit



Legal provision for

☒ Cancellation of licences of pharmaceutical establishments⁸

☒ Cancellation of marketing authorization of products⁸

☒ Initiating product recalls and withdrawals⁸

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