Turkish Delight in Healthcare Reforms, but What of the Future?

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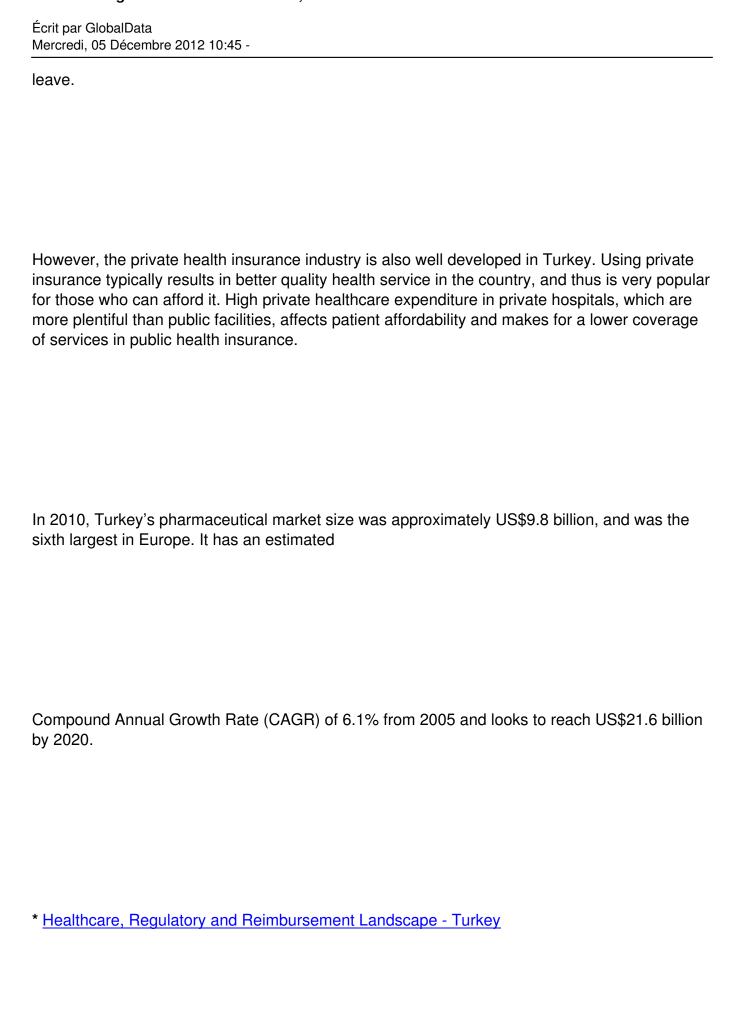
LONDON, UK (GlobalData), 4 December 2012 - The **healthcare system** in **Turkey** has undergone a long period of development through the Health Transformation Program 2003–2013, but a new report by healthcare experts GlobalData states that the future may still hold major issues.

The new report* explains that Turkey's current economic woes are presenting a challenge to the country's healthcare system. Turkish government procedures were successful in preventing the 2009 recession from becoming a full-blown depression, however, November 2010-September 2011 saw the value of Turkish Lira fall by 25%. This resulted in the Lira representing the world's worst performing emerging market currency during this period.

Turkey suffers from a growing prevalence of non-communicable and chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and cancer due to increasingly sedentary lifestyles, and an elderly population that has increased to more than 10% of the population. With unemployment in 2011 at 9.9%, the national health insurance programs of Turkey will be heavily burdened as increasing healthcare facilities are demanded by a population that is less able to afford them.

In Turkey, the Social Security Institution (Sosyal Guvenlik Kurumu, SGK) runs the new healthcare reimbursement system and reimburses approximately 80% of all drug purchases. In January 2011, 61.2 million (83%) of the population was covered under SGK insurance. SGK provides long-term benefits such as old-age pensions, invalidity insurance, invalidity pensions and marriage benefits, and short-term benefits such as workers compensation and maternity

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