

Thursday 17 January 2008

## **BGMA WELCOMES PAC REPORT AND ITS FINDINGS**

Warwick Smith, Director of the British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA), said:

"We welcome the Public Accounts Committee's comments and the NAO report. It is right that doctors should have the ultimate decision on what medicine a patient receives. But doctors should exercise that responsibility rationally and cost effectively by using the cheapest medicine available that delivers the desired clinical outcome. That means using a lower cost generic version of the same medicine where one is available. And it means considering using a generic with the same indications as a brand that is still under patent and where no exact generic equivalent exists.

We support the Government's advice that doctors should consider first prescribing the cheapest product in any therapeutic category and only moving patients to more expensive products if the desired clinical outcome requires that. This is in the interests of the NHS and patients since it uses finite NHS resources to the best effect. To argue otherwise is to put drug company profits before the interest of patients."

### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

The National Audit Office report 'Prescribing Costs in Primary Care' was published in May 2007.

The BGMA represents the interests of United Kingdom-based manufacturers and suppliers of generic medicines and promotes the development of the generic medicines industry in the United Kingdom.

We represent the views and interests of our members and industry generally to the UK government, the devolved administrations, regulators, other relevant third parties, including where appropriate the Institutions of the European Union.

The BGMA is made up of 18 members of the generic manufacturing industry, who between them account for around 85% of the UK market by volume.

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