



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release

Vibrant competitive generics market minimises risk of medicine shortages

Speaking in the margins of today's BAPW conference on supply chain resilience, BGMA Director Warwick Smith stressed the importance of the UK's multi-source generics market in minimising the risk of patients not receiving their medicines due to product shortages.

He said:

The BGMA fully supports the BAPW's focus on the resilience of the medicines supply chain. The BAPW's Chairman, David Cole, referred to medicines shortages being "due mainly to the one-off manufacturer problem". The vibrant competitive market that we see in generics in primary care in the UK means that there are usually many suppliers of each product so that, if one manufacturer has supply difficulties, the others can make up the shortfall.

Generics are a force for resilience. Our competitive market minimises the risk of generic shortages and secures the supply of medicines for patients. Short term restrictive procurement mechanisms such as tendering concentrate the market and increase the risk of patients going without their medicines. This is a crucially important point that policy makers ignore at the peril of patients.

Note for Editors:

The website address is: www.britishgenerics.co.uk

The British Generic Manufacturers Association represents the interests of UK-based manufacturers and suppliers of generic medicines and promotes the development and understanding of the generic medicines industry in the United Kingdom

Generic medicines contain the same active ingredient and are as effective as the equivalent brand and cost much less, making the NHS drugs bill affordable. 64% of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 29% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of around £7.5bn in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be approximately twice its current level. The average cost to the NHS of a generic medicine is £4.62, whilst the average cost of a branded medicine is £20. Competition from generics also stimulates the research based pharmaceutical industry to develop new medicines.

Our 18 members account for around 85% of the UK generics market by volume. Their work keeps medicines affordable for the Department of Health which allows further investment in other healthcare priorities, and promotes innovation in the development of new medicines.

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

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