



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

14 October 2010
For immediate release

BGMA Comments on generic substitution decision

Speaking today following the announcement by the Department of Health of its decision not to press ahead with the introduction of generic substitution as proposed by the 2009 PPRS, BGMA Director, Warwick Smith, said:

We welcome the Department of Health's commitment to look for further ways to support the use of generic medicines and their recognition that there are further savings to be made in this way.

We share their frustration at the remaining small amount of brand prescribing when there is no clinical reason not to use the equivalent but much more cost-effective generic. This simply wastes NHS money and prevents it being used for other areas of patient care. It acts against the interests of the NHS and patients. Generic competition already saves the NHS £8.6bn per year, delivering lower costs and greater accessibility to treatments for patients.

We will continue to work with the Department of Health to safeguard and maximise the generic contribution to the NHS.

— Ends —

Further information:

Warwick Smith: 020 7457 2065 / 07974 565 424

Notes for Editors:

The Department of Health's response to the consultation can be found here:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_120431

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. 65% of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 26% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of around £8.6bn 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 £3.83, 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 19 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.