



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, June 25th, 2014

Practical Guidance Will Improve Hospital Medicines Efficiency

Practical guidance on access to hospital medicines has been updated and from July, Trusts across England will be encouraged to adopt the recommendations to improve efficiency and the smooth supply of drugs.

A joint-initiative between the British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA), which represents 90% of the UK supply of generic medicines, and the Pharmaceutical Market Support Group (PMSG) has seen updated guidance published on contracted secondary care medicine purchase.

The objective is to provide a process for better communication between Trusts and suppliers allowing quicker resolution to supply issues. In some cases, where the problem can be easily solved through direct dialogue, this may mean it is not necessary to pay off-contract claims which can be commercially prohibitive for manufacturers.

Derek Brown, Chair of the BGMA's Secondary Care Group said: "This guidance has already been in operation in Wales and trialled in selected English Trusts and has been successful. It is now being fully rolled out across England and Wales.

"We strongly believe this guidance will be beneficial for both trusts and suppliers as it establishes a dialogue between the two parties where a contracted supplier can more easily find out and solve problems where it is able - such as the wholesaler holding limited stock of a product - without paying unnecessary off-contract claims.

"For example the guidance encourages Trusts to aggregate low value claims for up to a certain period as our research found that in many cases, the cost of an off-contract claim was less than both the cost of invoicing and paying the claim."

Where issues of shortages in supply do occur the guidance also provides practical solutions so that the problems can be resolved quickly. For example, it provides the opportunity for manufacturers to seek alternative stock themselves.

Derek Brown added: "If a shortage occurs then the Trust can work through our guidelines and if it is pursuing an alternative purchase, it would then follow a common template form to provide the necessary information that contracted suppliers commonly require to be able to pay the difference between the contracted purchase and the alternative purchase (via another supplier).

"Again, we believe that a standard template will save both the trust and contracted supplier time, with the trust knowing what information to supply to be able to make a claim."

Press Release

For more information, the document can be found on the BGMA website – www.britishgenerics.co.uk.

ENDS

For further information contact:

Jeremy Durrant, 020 7866 7883 / 07792 918648

Jeremy.durrant@britishgenerics.co.uk

Notes for Editors:

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. More than two thirds of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only around 29% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of more than £11.5billion* in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be approximately twice its current level.

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.