



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Thursday, November 6th, 2014

Generic usage remains crucial to NHS savings and promoting innovation

Response from the British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA) to a new report issued today by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. The report has identified nearly two billions pounds worth of cost savings the NHS could be made if it provides more appropriate care in just 16 areas of clinical practice.

BGMA Director General Warwick Smith said: "We welcome today's report by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges on ensuring the best use of NHS resources in the interests of patients. The use of generic medicines already saves the NHS in England over £12bn per year: every further 1% swing to the use of generic medicines saves a further £160m and promotes innovation by competing with established treatments.

"Whilst we support the take-up of new medicines where they offer more cost-effective treatment for patients, the use of generic medicines where they are the cost-effective alternative remains crucial to reduce the NHS drugs bill. Generic usage allows financial headroom to enable the NHS to afford newer treatments, as well as providing competition to incentivise the development of innovative medicines."

For more information on the BGMA visit www.britishgenerics.co.uk.

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Press Release

Notes for Editors:

The British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA) 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 £12billion (calculated on all prescriptions reimbursed at the average brand cost) in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be more than 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.