



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Press Information

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

## NHS Figures Reinforce the Value of Generics

The generic medicines industry is saving tax-payers over £9billion a year based on new data released by the NHS Information Centre.

The "NHS Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community: England, Statistics for 2000 to 2010" report detailed the growth in prescriptions over the past decade showing an overall rise of nearly 70 per cent.

Last year some 927 million items were prescribed, a 4.6 per cent rise from 2009. Of the total number of items prescribed in 2010 more than two thirds (67.4 per cent) were dispensed generically which saves the NHS £9.5billion annually, a figure higher than the total drugs bill of £8.2billion.

The overall average cost of generic medicines to the NHS today is 3% less than it was in 2000 while during the same time period the cost of branded drugs has risen by 23%.

Warwick Smith, Director-General, British Generic Manufacturers Association, said: "It's clear that generic medicines continue to play a vital role in providing value for money to the NHS allowing more patients to get access to the drugs that they need.

"The figures released by the NHS Information Centre show how competition has been a crucial mechanic in keeping costs down and providing an impetus for innovation and research within the industry."

ENDS

For further information contact:

Jeremy Durrant, 0207 866 7883 / 07792 918648

[Jeremy.durrant@britishgenerics.co.uk](mailto:Jeremy.durrant@britishgenerics.co.uk)

Notes for Editors:

The saving of £9.5bn per year due to generic competition is based on a calculation of what the NHS drugs bill would be if all prescription medicines cost the NHS the average price of branded drugs, ie without the impact of lower priced generic medicines.

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 (67.4%) of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 29.6% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of around £9.5bn 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 £4.01, whilst the average cost of a branded medicine is £19.73. Competition from generics also stimulates the research based pharmaceutical industry to develop new medicines.

Our 21 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.