



**FIRST STEP TOWARDS PRESERVATION OF PATIENT SAFETY
DH agrees to full, formal consultation over bid for Automatic Generic Substitution**

25 August 2009 London, UK: Norgine has been informed that the Department of Health (DH) plans to conduct a full, formal consultation on the arrangements for the implementation of Automatic Generic Substitution this Autumn. This will be welcome news to many who have serious concerns about the clinical implications that compulsory generic substitution would have for patients.

The decision follows representations made by patients, healthcare professionals and pharmaceutical companies opposed on several grounds to the ABPI's proposal, initially rejected, but subsequently accepted by the DH, to introduce Automatic Generic Substitution in January 2010. The intention to conduct a formal consultation represents a significant milestone and will be welcomed by many stakeholders who have petitioned the DH to go public on the proposal to ensure that the practical impact of generic substitution upon patients' outcomes, as well as safety, concordance and the NHS medicines' bill, is considered.

Earlier this year, the paper "*Automatic generic substitution: Clinical implications for patients*" highlighted the need for public consultation. The paper was written and endorsed by a multidisciplinary group of healthcare professionals and patient groups and Norgine provided funding for the group. In addition, a growing number of parties have been signing up to a petition calling for public consultation hosted at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/genericsubst/>.

Norgine COO, Peter Martin, said: "It is vital that all stakeholders continue to raise issues with the DH to ensure that all angles are covered in the proposed formal consultation. We will continue to work with industry partners, healthcare professionals, professional bodies and patient groups to ensure that all voices are heard. We want to ensure the best outcomes for the patients and for the taxpayer.

"It is hoped that these open discussions, focussing on the key area of patient safety, will prevent the proposal of Automatic Generic Substitution from being implemented in the UK."

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Contact details:

For further information please contact:

Dr Mike Geraint
Norgine Pharmaceuticals Limited
Chaplin House
Widewater Place
Moorhall Road
Harefield
Uxbridge
Middlesex UB9 6NS, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1895 826609

Christine Baldwin
Burson-Marsteller
Office: +44 (0) 207 300 6337
Email: Christine.baldwin@bm.com

Notes to editors:**Norgine**

Norgine is an independent, successful European specialty pharmaceutical company that has been established for over 100 years and has a direct presence in all the major European markets. Norgine employs over 1,000 people.

Norgine's focus is the development and marketing of pharmaceutical products that address significant unmet clinical needs in areas such as gastroenterology, hepatology and pain management. The company currently markets a range of products in its key therapeutic areas such as MOVICOL[®] for the treatment of constipation and faecal impaction, MOVIPREP[®] a new generation of bowel cleansing preparation and KLEAN-PREP[®] for bowel preparation prior to colonoscopy.

Norgine is active in research and development and currently has products in various stages of clinical development. Norgine manufactures most of its own products in Hengoed in Wales and Dreux in France.

Norgine's web site www.norgine.com