



Corporate Press Release

Patient safety prevails: Department of Health will not progress with Automatic Generic Substitution

15 October London, UK: Norgine is delighted that the Department of Health (DH) has announced today that it intends to scrap plans to implement Automatic Generic Substitution (AGS) by pharmacists. This decision follows serious concerns about the clinical implications of AGS for patients voiced by healthcare professionals, pharmacists, patient groups and the pharmaceutical industry.

Following a public consultation, which closed in March 2010, the DH has explained that three key themes were raised against the implementation of AGS:

- The threat to patient safety
- If there really were cost savings
- Other ways for generic prescribing to continue to be encouraged

Mary Baker, President of the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) commented: "We are pleased that the DH has taken note of our concerns regarding patient safety and outcomes by abandoning their plans for generic substitution by pharmacists. We are relieved that decisions regarding the treatment of individual patients will continue to be made by prescribers who are aware of their needs and medical history."

"This decision is great news for patients. It is imperative that patient safety is at the centre of all prescribing decisions. Patients need to partner with their physician and it is key that they know they will receive what the doctor has prescribed." said Professor Trevor Jones, CBE, Former Director General ABPI.

Peter Martin, COO of Norgine, said "We are just delighted that the DH has taken notice of the 423 organisations and individuals who expressed their views. Norgine has also stressed the concern regarding patient safety and are pleased that the DH has decided that this is the most important issue and that safety must not be compromised."

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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 1,200 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 website www.norgine.com