BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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BGMA welcomes NICE biosimilar resource on Infliximab

- **Implementation pack will provide important guidance and real life case studies on introduction of biosimilar medicines**

The British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA) has welcomed the publication by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) of a resource to support the introduction of biosimilar versions of Infliximab.

The BGMA – which represents more than 90% of the UK generics and biosimilars industry – said the move was a critical step in publicising the benefits of these important medicines.

This Infliximab resource or 'implementation pack' has been developed for both clinical and non-clinical staff to help them manage the introduction of biosimilar medicines into their care pathways safely and effectively.

The UK patent on Infliximab expired in February and two biosimilar products were launched which are now available to NHS clinicians and patients under the separate brand names Inflectra and Remsima. These were the first biosimilar launches since NICE updated its methods for providing guidance and advice on biosimilar medicines earlier this year.

The newly published NICE resource will specifically, looks at how NHS organisations can safely and effectively transition from Infliximab to Inflectra or Remsima providing real-life insights from NHS clinicians who have already switched to these new technologies. This includes advice from case studies at the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Additionally it covers:

• Practical advice on how to effectively introduce biosimilars into the care pathway, taken from case studies carried out in two NHS Foundation trusts.
• Important advice on possible barriers to implementation and how to overcome these.
• Information on the opportunities for cost-savings and re-investment.
• A process to implement a well-managed safe switching programme to biosimilars.

Warwick Smith, Director General of the BGMA, said: "We welcome this important resource from NICE and hope to see it widely publicised to clinicians and patients alike. The biosimilars industry is still relatively new in the UK with only a handful of products available. Therefore resources like this which contain real life case studies are invaluable for providing people with information and guidance on how best to implement this critical class of medicines."

The implementation pack can be accessed at https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/htta329

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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 £12.5billion 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.