



Press Release

Ensuring patient safety through product verification systems

CANNES, FRANCE 7th June 2010 – At the occasion of its Annual General Meeting, currently underway, GIRP sees full merit in product verification at the point of dispense for achieving increased product and patient safety.

However, several Member State authorities are advocating the recording of batch numbers by wholesalers on the dispatch of medicines to pharmacies as a mean of increased security for products and patients' alike. According to GIRPs' Director General, Ms. Monika Derecque-Pois, "the recording of batch numbers for every pack of medicine delivered to a pharmacy does not increase the level of product security. The recording of this number in itself does not result in the detection of counterfeit medicines, as indeed counterfeit medicines would also carry a falsified batch number which would be in every case be dispensed to patients due the fact that a recording requirement does not indicate that the products is not the real one".

Speaking to the press, the Associations' Director General explains that her members are "in favour of a product verification system, allowing pharmacists to verify the authenticity of the medicines before handing them out to the patients and the wholesaler to verify medicines when receiving them regarding their authenticity (random sampling)." She highlights that "this is the most efficient way to protect the legal supply chain from the infiltration of counterfeit medicines and most importantly, patients from receiving them".

Pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers provide a "just in time" delivery service to pharmacies in order to ensure that patients do not have to wait for their medicines. Therefore, the speed of commissioning the order is crucial as the time between the order and the delivery is minimised within the logistic processes operated by pharmaceutical wholesalers.

Wholesalers' position is clear:

- There should be no batch number recording requirements. The costs are high, the efforts are great and the benefits very much unclear.
- Product verification at the point of dispense, with the possibility for full-line wholesalers to verify medicines, is the **best result orientated option available**.

Photographs from the conference will be available throughout the day through the following link:

<http://girp.eu/cms/index.php?/eng/PRESS-CORNER/PICTURES-FOR-THE-PRESS>

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