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## **Update on the British healthcare reform**

In October 2005, the British healthcare authorities proposed changes to the arrangements for payment for products and services on the British markets for ostomy, continence care and wound care products. The first consultation period ended in January 2006.

Subsequently, the dialogue between authorities, interested parties and businesses encouraged the British Department of Health to undertake further detailed consultations on the ostomy and continence care area, covering service standards and product categorisation.

The healthcare authorities have now indicated, that they expect to complete their review of the latest consultation responses by 18 October 2006 and forward the findings from the process to the Health Minister shortly thereafter.

It has also been indicated, that a new consultation looking at service- and reimbursement pricing will be issued in November 2006.

It is impossible to assess the precise timing and effects of possible changes. When we receive further substantial information from the British authorities, we will make an announcement.

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