



## **METHODOLOGY NOTES**

### **TRANSPARENCY DISCLOSURE FOR TRANSFERS OF VALUE (ToV) TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS (HCP) AND HEALTHCARE ORGANISATIONS (HCO)**

**Country of Disclosure: [Belgium](#)**

**Year of Disclosure: 2017 for 2016 data**

This document is intended to guide the readers in understanding how Norgine derived and calculated the amounts presented in their 2017 disclosure, as each pharmaceutical company may approach the problems in subtly different ways.

#### **1. Introduction to Norgine**

Norgine is a European specialist pharmaceutical company that has been established for over 100 years. Norgine employs over 1,000 people across 14 sites.

Norgine provides expertise and 'know how' in Europe to develop, manufacture and market products that offer real value to healthcare professionals, payers and patients.

Norgine is headquartered in the Netherlands and its global operations are based in Amsterdam and in Harefield, UK. Norgine owns a Research & Development site in Hengoed, Wales and two manufacturing sites, one in Hengoed, Wales and one in Dreux, France. For more information, please visit [www.norgine.com](http://www.norgine.com)

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#### **2. Introduction to Transparency Disclosure and the Purpose of this Document**

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) Disclosure Code calls for greater transparency between the pharmaceutical companies and Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) and Healthcare Organisations (HCOs) – cf.

<http://transparency.efpia.eu/uploads/Modules/Documents/efpia-disclosure-code-2014.pdf>.

EFPIA requires that pharmaceutical companies document and publicly disclose certain transfers of value made directly or indirectly to HCPs, HCOs and Patient Organisations located in Europe.

Norgine continues to publicly disclose the financial support and/or significant indirect/non-financial support to Patient Organisations on its corporate website ([www.norgine.com](http://www.norgine.com)) as it has done since transparency requirements began in 2012. This is because Norgine believes in interacting with and providing financial support to patient organisations to ensure high quality provision of information for patients so that, in consultation with their healthcare professionals, they can make well-informed choices about their health and treatment and ultimately improve their experience and outcomes.

In Belgium transparency on transfers of value is regulated via the Pharma.be and recorded since 2016 in the [www.betransparent.be](http://www.betransparent.be). This website can be used to search the Healthcare Transparency Register. Betrtransparent.be offers insight to certain financial relationships between companies and healthcare providers, partnerships of healthcare professionals and institutions which employ healthcare professionals.

Financial relationships imply payments, in money or kind, done by companies to, for example, a physician or other healthcare provider or hospital. You can search the Betrtransparent.be to find out if and for what a physician or institution has received such sponsorship. Betrtransparent.be has been

established by physicians, healthcare providers and –institutions and companies with the aim of being transparent concerning the cooperation between healthcare parties.

Collaborative working between healthcare professionals and commercial life sciences organisations has long been a positive driver for advancements in patient care and progression of innovative medicine. Both parties regularly join together, during early scientific research, clinical trials and medical education in the interests of delivering and advancing high quality patient care. As the primary point of contact with patients, the medical profession can offer invaluable and expert knowledge on patients' behaviour and management of diseases. This plays a big part in informing the pharmaceutical industry's efforts to improve patient care and treatment options – and is essential in improving health outcomes.

A healthy working relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and HCPs/HCOs is in the best interest of patients. The EFPIA Disclosure Code was created to protect the integrity of these relationships, and represents a step towards fostering greater transparency and building greater trust between the pharmaceutical industry, the medical community and society across Europe.

In line with this Code, Norgine believes that relationships and collaborations between healthcare professionals and the pharmaceutical sector are mutually beneficial and have a profound and positive influence on the quality of patient treatment and the value of future research. Increasingly, experienced HCPs are called upon to inform product development and explain why therapies and innovations are necessary and demonstrate value to patients.

Norgine reviews its business code, compliance policies and procedures regularly and make changes as appropriate based on both external and internal factors, to ensure its business practices reflect all relevant laws, regulations and industry codes that govern the company's business, while maintaining patient safety at all times.

In Europe, each company providing transfers of value to a HCP or HCO must publish a note summarising the methodologies used by it in preparing the disclosures and identifying each category of transfer of value.

Norgine will disclose all Transfers of Value to HCPs and HCOs in accordance with its commitment to Pharma.be and therefore is following the EFPIA Disclosure Code closely.

The term '**transfer of value**' means a direct or indirect transfer of value, whether in cash, in kind or otherwise, made, whether for promotional purposes or otherwise, in connection with the development or sale of medicines. A direct transfer of value is one made directly by a company for the benefit of a recipient. An indirect transfer of value is one made on behalf of a company for the benefit of a recipient or through an intermediate and where the company knows or can identify the recipient that will benefit from the transfer of value.

Betransparent.be was established in 2016 at the initiative of Pharma.be for the purpose of providing insight into financial relationships between healthcare providers and pharmaceutical companies. Betrtransparent.be manages a central database which can be used by the public to consult data on certain financial relationships between pharmaceutical companies and physicians, healthcare providers, partnerships of healthcare professionals and institutions which employ healthcare professionals. Transparency is of importance in other branches and occupational groups as well. Therefore Betrtransparent.be has been established independently of Pharma.be.

Betrtransparent.be processes the data on pharmaceutical companies and healthcare providers and – institutions. For more information on rules and regulations with regard to transparency, please visit the website [www.betrtransparent.be](http://www.betrtransparent.be).

The Rules of Conduct Disclosure Financial Relationships include the obligation to physicians, pharmacists, nurses and physician assistants on the one hand and pharmaceutical companies on the other to report data on service, consultancy and sponsorship relationships to the register. Agreed upon is the fact that in the first instance pharmaceutical companies report to the register the financial relationships they entered within Belgium. If there is a financial relationship with a pharmaceutical

company abroad and an actively in the Netherlands operating physician, healthcare provider or – institution, the obligation to report the register lies with the physician, healthcare provider or –institution.

Transfers of Value to the Belgian HCOs and HCPs that occurred between 1st January to 31st December 2016 are available on a central platform managed by Betransparent.be and will be made public by end of June 2017; a link to this central platform will also be disclosed on the Norgine corporate website ([www.norgine.com](http://www.norgine.com)).

Norgine develops and commercialise both medicinal products and medical devices across different countries. Although there are currently no transparency requirements for medical devices in Europe, Norgine reports transfers of value where there is a possible overlap between the services that a HCP may provide that spans across both class of products, or that could be perceived as influencing the judgement of the contracted HCP. Transfers of value solely related to medical devices are not yet reported in this disclosure.

The same transparency process applies where Norgine has Over the Counter products.

For non-monetary transfers of value, a perceived equivalent value to the recipient is stated.

### 3. Definitions

Norgine has kept the EFPIA Code definitions of Healthcare Professionals (HCP) and Healthcare Organisations (HCO).

**Healthcare professional (HCP):** Any natural person that is a member of the medical, dental, pharmacy or nursing professions or any other person who, in the course of his or her professional activities, may prescribe, purchase, supply, recommend or administer a medicinal product and whose primary practice, principal professional address or place of incorporation is in Europe. For the avoidance of doubt, the definition of HCP includes: (i) any official or employee of a government agency or other organisation (whether in the public or private sector) that may prescribe, purchase, supply or administer medicinal products and (ii) any employee of a Member Company whose primary occupation is that of a practising HCP, but excludes (x) all other employees of a Member Company and (y) a wholesaler or distributor of medicinal products.

For the purposes of disclosure, Norgine regards all employees of the national public health service or any private Healthcare Provider as HCPs regardless of their professional status. In addition, Norgine regards all registered or qualified healthcare professionals as within the scope of disclosure regardless of their national public health service status. Thus retired HCPs fall within scope and academic staff who provide clinical services and support too.

The salary and benefits of members of staff that are solely employed by Norgine as physicians are outside the scope of this disclosure.

Any Norgine employee whose primary occupation is that of a practising HCP are in scope of this disclosure. Transfers of value to that group will therefore be disclosed, including their salary from Norgine.

**Healthcare Organisation (HCO):** Any legal person (i) that is a healthcare, medical or scientific association or organisation (irrespective of the legal or organisational form) such as a hospital, clinic, foundation, university or other teaching institution or learned society (except for patient organisations within the scope of the EFPIA PO Code) whose business address, place of incorporation or primary place of operation is in Europe or (ii) through which one or more HCPs provide services.

Norgine collectively refers to HCP, HCO and Patient Organisations as healthcare customers.

**Donations and Grants:** Donations and Grants, collectively, means those donations and grants (either in cash or benefits in kind or otherwise) to institutions, organisations or associations that are comprised of healthcare professionals and/or that provide healthcare or conduct research. Grants are provided to fulfil a specific purpose, but for which the specific activities needed to undertake it have not been defined. They are only allowed if: (i) they are made for the purpose of supporting healthcare or research;

(ii) they are documented and kept on record by the donor/grantor; and (iii) they do not constitute an inducement to recommend, prescribe, purchase, supply, sell or administer specific medicinal products. Donations and grants to individual healthcare professionals are not permitted. Data Privacy & Consent

Norgine fully supports the concepts of transparency and data privacy. Data Privacy law requires that all pharmaceutical companies, and therefore Norgine, obtain permission from individual HCPs prior to disclosing personal data such as individual transfers of value made to them and attributable by name.

Norgine only enters into an agreement with a HCP or HCO if they consent to having their data publicly disclosed either in an aggregate or individual manner. Norgine does not enter into agreement with HCPs who refuse to abide by the principles of transparency. Note that HCPs have the right to opt out from individual disclosure and revoke their consent at any time, and Norgine has to abide by their preferences.

Every time Norgine enters into an agreement with a HCP or HCO for a given interaction (e.g. project work, meeting, event, grant, consultancy fee), the contractual agreement clearly indicates the type of disclosure agreed (i.e. consented to) by the healthcare stakeholder. Norgine will seek consent to disclose transfers of value made to a HCP or HCO for each transaction or interaction they are contracted for. This means that for the same disclosure year, the same HCP or HCO can opt to have some transfers of value published individually (via individual disclosure) and others aggregated (via aggregate disclosure).

Where permission has not been obtained or where the individual HCP has refused to provide consent on an individual basis, Norgine has declared the total spend as an aggregate figure. In the spirit of transparency, Norgine seeks the consent to disclose all of its transfers of value at an individual level so new consent is sought for each new interaction or project.

NB: In alignment with EFPIA Code, support to Patient Organisation is done at an individual level and without any specific consent sought or provided. Norgine will provide sufficient information about the nature of the payments to inform the readers about the interaction. Information about support to Patient Organisation is published on Norgine corporate website and does not form part of this disclosure – cf. [www.norgine.com](http://www.norgine.com).

#### **4. Data Privacy & Consent**

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Every time Norgine enters into an agreement with a HCP or HCO for a given interaction (e.g. project work, meeting, event, grant, consultancy fee), the contractual agreement clearly indicates the type of disclosure agreed (i.e. consented to) by the healthcare stakeholder. Norgine seeks consent to disclose transfers of value made to a HCP or HCO for each transaction or interaction they are contracted for. In the event that a same HCP opts to have some transfers of value published individually (via individual disclosure) and others aggregated (via aggregate disclosure) for a same year, Norgine will reconcile all the information for that customer for that year and aggregate all the transfers of value for that customer.

Where permission has not been obtained or where the individual HCP has refused to provide consent on an individual basis, Norgine has declared the total spend as an aggregate figure. In the spirit of transparency, Norgine seeks the consent to disclose all of its transfers of value at an individual level so new consent is sought for each new interaction or project.

## 5. Research and Development (R&D)

All payments to HCPs and HCOs related to research and development are disclosed as one aggregate figure under R&D Transfer of Value. Costs that are subsidiary to these clinical trial activities are also included in the aggregate amount.

For the purpose of disclosure, research and development transfers of value are transfers of value to a HCP or HCO related to the planning or conduct of:

- non-clinical studies (as defined in the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice)
- clinical trials (as defined in Directive 2001/20/EC)
- non-interventional studies that are prospective in nature and involve the collection of data from, or on behalf of, individual or groups of health professionals specifically for the study.

Because Clinical Research Organisations (CRO) are not regarded by Norgine as HCOs, any R&D transfers of value made by the CRO to HCP or HCO are declared as part of the R&D aggregate disclosure.

## 6. Transactions

### Transaction Date versus Service Delivery Date

Norgine handles and declares the transfers of value from the time of payment to the healthcare customer, i.e. the transaction date, rather than when the service, interaction or event actually occurred. This means that there could be some instances where the transfers of value disclosed in 2016 are reported in 2017, and also transfers of value related to 2015 made in 2016.

Transfers of value will always be paid after the engagement has taken place, with the exception of grants (see definition). Grants will be paid before the event actually takes place, or the purchase to what the grant is for.

### Management of Multi-Year Contracts

In a similar spirit to the above point, where projects run for several years, Norgine declares the amount paid relevant to the year in which each part of the payment was made. Thus a project which spans 2 calendar years and includes several individual transfers of value during that time will have two associated disclosures (i.e. one for each calendar year showing the value of the transfer made in that specific calendar year).

### VAT

Fees and honoraria consultancy exclude VAT and recoverable local taxes.

Expenses related to an event or meeting (travel, accommodation, taxi) may include VAT or local taxes where applicable.

VAT, if included, is the national VAT of the country where the spend is incurred.

### Handling of Currency and Exchange Rates

The values in the disclosure template are expressed in local currency; Euros for the Dutch data.

Where values had to be converted into Euro from another currency, the exchange rate used was the Norgine Annual Budgetary Conversion Rate at the time of the transaction, or for 2016, 1 Euro = 0.7013 GBP equivalent to 1 GBP = 1.4260 Euros.

## 7. Complicated Payment Routes

### Payments to Charity and Third Parties

Occasionally, a HCP who has provided a service to Norgine may ask for their fee to be paid to charity or a third party instead. Typically Norgine does not allow this practice, and the disclosure is made against the individual HCP because the contract is between Norgine and the HCP, the HCP provided the service and received the transfer of value. It is up to the HCP to transfer the payment upon receipt to a charity or third party of their choice should they chose to do so, and that further transaction is outside the control of Norgine.

Norgine regularly contracts with advertising agencies and public relations agencies for services related to its business and where a HCP may be contracted to perform a service for Norgine. Norgine discloses any transfers of value made to the individual HCP by the service agency as if the payment had been made directly by Norgine to that HCP.

In case a sponsoring grant is given to an agency for a given topic, however there is no influence by Norgine on either the content or the HCP(s) involved is given, then due to the independent nature, there is no need for Norgine to disclose to the Transparency Register.

#### Payments to HCO for services provided by individual HCP

Occasionally, a HCO may request that any services provided by its HCP employees must be a contracted through the HCO itself and cannot be contracted with the individual HCP. In the case that Norgine is contracting for the services of a named HCP, the transfer of value is disclosed under that named HCP. Any "administration fee" charged by the HCO is disclosed as a fee for service to that HCO. If the HCP does not receive any additional payment for the service (e.g. because they are speaking at a meeting during normal working hours) then the full amount paid by Norgine will be disclosed against the healthcare organisation as a fee for service.

#### Private companies and associated charities

In the event of a HCP running a private company or partnership or charity for the purpose of their private income, any transfers of value made to that organisation will be regarded for disclosure purposes as a payment to the HCP directly.

### **8. Medical Education Grants**

#### Grants to Independent Companies

From time to time, independent companies running medical education projects may request a grant from Norgine to sponsor or fund their work. In such case, Norgine has no influence over the detail of the project, and might not know whether or which HCP has been contracted. Transfers of value are disclosed accordingly against the HCO.

#### Grants and Donations

When Norgine is asked to provide a grant or make a donation to a HCO to assist its employees to attend medical or scientific meetings (i.e. that could include the contribution to registration fees, or travel and accommodation), the associated transfers of value will be disclosed accordingly against the HCO, unless the request is associated with named individuals. If the request is associated with a named HCP, the disclosure is made as if the named HCP directly benefitted from the transfer of value. Where Norgine is not aware of the names of the HCPs receiving the support, the grant is declared against the HCO that made the request.

### **9. Contributions to Meetings**

Norgine disclose all payments made to medical associations and HCOs in relation to meetings. This includes direct funding such as sponsorship fees or the right to erect an exhibition stand, and indirect support such as providing a logistics agency or subsidising the cost of registration fees, travel and accommodation. Expenses to attend company-arranged meetings are also disclosed, and the detail of all these transfers of value are provided in the relevant line entry.

Costs related to subsistence are outside the scope of the disclosure since the meal costs are regulated by strict industry guidelines. Occasionally, subsistence may have to be included when it is not possible to single out the cost of the food because it is included as part of a general receipt containing other costs that must be disclosed.

Norgine supports the attendance of HCPs at medical and scientific meetings. Where costs are not individually itemised (e.g. the cost of a bus transferring a group of HCPs from an airport to a conference venue), as per CGR-ruling the total cost is split equally between all those receiving the benefit.

## **10. Cross-Border Payments**

Norgine has Affiliates in many countries within and outside the European Union..

Transfers of value made by any Norgine entity is disclosed in the relevant disclosing template in the correct local currency of the practising healthcare customers. All disclosures are made in the country in which the HCP practices or in which the HCO is located.

Transfers of value made to Belgium-based organisations by Norgine's overseas operations are disclosed in Belgium regardless of the source of funding. This means that this disclosure contains all transfers of value that Norgine has made to Belgian HCP and HCO, regardless of which Norgine entity has actually made the transfer of value.

The same applies for transfers of value made by the Belgium Affiliate to other non-Belgium HCP or HCO, they do not feature in the Belgium disclosure but in the relevant template(s) of the country(ies) responsible for disclosing those transfers of value instead.

## **11. Co-Marketing Projects**

Where Norgine jointly markets a product with another pharmaceutical company, Norgine declares the transfers of value made directly from its own bank accounts and listed in the company financial books as part of its normal business operations. Transfers of value made by its co-marketing partners are disclosed separately by those organisations. Responsibility regarding transparency disclosure should be clear from the contractual partner agreements.

Any questions regarding the content of this document should be addressed to [belgium.info@norgine.com](mailto:belgium.info@norgine.com) or [contact@norgine.com](mailto:contact@norgine.com).