



AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN NORWAY

Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Service
Pb 8011 Dep
0300 Oslo

14.07.2017

Response to the open consultation issued by the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services, debating changes in the drug legislation on reimbursement:

The American Chamber of Commerce in Norway (AmCham) welcomes the invitation to participate in the above mentioned hearing.

Overall, AmCham is concerned that the Ministry does not build upon the goals set out by the White Paper on Pharmaceuticals (2015/2016). The effect of these changes should be evaluated against all four goals, as clearly stated by parliament. Today, the effects on quick patient access and innovation are not properly evaluated within this suggestion.

AmCham has the following input to the suggestion:

1. There should still be an opportunity to appeal decisions

Presently, there is an opportunity to appeal decisions made in the Blue Prescription system. AmCham, on behalf of our members, is concerned that the Ministry proposes to remove this opportunity. Rather than removing the prospect of promoting increased clarity on complex issues, epitomized through the relevant parties' right to appeal, the Ministry should — conversely — establish a committee of industry experts to re-examine the results when the relevant parties cannot agree on the conclusions made. Such a committee would help ensure fair competition and optimal patient care.

2. The intentions behind the individual reimbursement system should be preserved

When they passed the White Paper on Prioritization, Parliament stated that “the intention behind the individual reimbursement system should be preserved.” The current suggestion does not offer any solutions for future patients who will need this safety net; it only provides a solution for pharmaceuticals that are already included in the individual reimbursement system.

3. The extremely narrow definition of what a *rare disease* is needs to be changed

In this suggestion, the Ministry is redefining what is to be accounted as a rare disease. The consequences of this narrow interpretation can be very serious for the patients that are suffering from rare diseases. This is not in keeping with what was communicated when parliament debated the White Paper on Prioritization last year. The Ministry should work on a system that values the development of treatment for patients with rare diseases.



AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN NORWAY

4. There needs to be a separate procurement system for patented drugs

It is important that we have a procurement system that values innovation when dealing with drugs on patent. AmCham applauds the government's efforts to promote healthy competition, but does not support that innovative drugs on patent should be included in the same tenders as drugs that are no longer patented.

AmCham appreciates the opportunity to participate in this debate and hopes that all parties can agree upon foundations to promote fair competition, patient benefits and healthcare innovation.

Sincerely,

Jason Turflinger,

Managing Director