

New agreement between Denmark and Norway can secure cheaper medicine

Press release on 18. September 2018: *The signing today of a new agreement on joint negotiations on medicine today between Denmark and Norway aims both at improving the security of supply and in the long term also at ensuring cheaper medicines in both countries.*

Denmark and Norway start up joint price negotiations on medicines.

This is the result of a new agreement between Denmark and Norway that was signed today by the Danish Minister of Health, Ellen Trane Nørby and the Norwegian Minister of Health, Bent Høie.

'I am happy that we today with this agreement make it clear that we have a joint interest in cooperating to make sure that our citizens can get the right medicine at the right time and for a fair price. We must optimize the money spent on public health', says Minister of Health, Ellen Trane Nørby.

'I am confident that the agreement we have made today will strengthen our position in the negotiations of new and expensive medicine', says Norwegian Minister of Health, Bent Høie.

The new cooperation between Denmark and Norway aims, above all, at ensuring an improved security of supply as sufficient supply of older medicinal products with outdated patents that pose a challenge in both Denmark and Norway. At the same time, joint negotiations are expected to ensure better prices when purchasing medicine.

The agreement is a ministerial declaration aimed at the purchase organisations Amgros and Lis, which are the two organisations that are responsible for purchasing medicine for the Danish and Norwegian regions, respectively. This agreement now calls upon the two organisations to join each other in common tenders and price negotiations of selected medicines.

The agreement is based on a Nordic cooperation, which lately has been intensified, among other cases by offering common negotiations on the medicine Spinraza, just as Denmark and Norway have invited the industry to a meeting to discuss a coming common Nordic tender for chosen medicines.

The full text of the agreement can be found here: [Intensjonsaftale mellem Danmark og Norge \(PDF\)](#)

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BACKGROUND

The agreement between Denmark and Norway is the result of long-term efforts in the Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordic Forum for Medicine (a forum for the Nordic purchasing organisations). On the Nordic Council of Ministers' meeting on 30 March 2017, the Nordic Ministers of Health gave a mandate to exchange experiences on price and reimbursement.

The cooperation should specifically open opportunities of sharing information on handling and purchasing new expensive medicines. The mandate also gave an opportunity for one or more countries to establish closer cooperation on joint price negotiations.