Press release

Utrecht, 19 April 2006

OPG partner in major primary healthcare centre

OPG will become a partner in a multi-disciplinary primary healthcare centre in Tiel (the Netherlands) comprising 5 pharmacies and 16 GPs. The close collaboration between healthcare providers at a single location means greater customer-friendliness. The move is in line with OPG’s strategy of further expanding its position on the pharmacy market.

The first action by OPG, currently the owner of two pharmacies in Tiel, was to reach agreement on the business combination involving the town’s other three pharmacies. OPG is acquiring a majority of the shares, with the other pharmacists each retaining an interest.

The pharmacists will work closely with the GPs in a new multi-disciplinary primary healthcare centre, which should open at the end of 2006. This concentration of pharmacy and GPs at a single location will simplify matters for customers, as they will be able to collect their medicines immediately after visiting the doctor. Moreover, the day-to-day contact between the healthcare providers will benefit pharmaceutical care. The efficient business process will also produce cost savings. A few satellite branches of the pharmacy will remain in place to provide local service.

This transaction increases the number of pharmacies owned by OPG from 214 at year-end 2005 to 217. OPG is currently a partner in 39 healthcare centres, not including the one in Tiel. As well as establishing healthcare centres, OPG is building a high-profile retail chain: Mediq Pharmacy.

Note for the editor

OPG Group is a retail and distribution company for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. It divides its activities over three channels: pharmacy and wholesaling operations (pharmacies); providing medical supplies for home healthcare and related services (direct); and the marketing and distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to hospitals and nursing homes (institutional). OPG focuses on the consumer, supplying products through whatever channel the consumer wishes.

As well as being the market leader in the Netherlands, OPG operates in Poland, Belgium, Norway and Hungary. The company has approximately 6,500 employees.
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