

## **APPLYING FOR A NORDIC ARTICLE NUMBER**

### **When?**

Article numbers can in essence be applied for at any point in time, but for practical reasons it is always best to apply well in advance, for example when applying for a marketing authorisation at the National Agency for Medicines. The processing time for a Vnr order is approximately three weeks.

### **How?**

The Nordic article number is applied for using a separate application form from each national administrator. In Finland the Vnr registration administrator is the Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd (Lääketietokeskus Oy).

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd / **Vnr**

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Fax. +358 9 6150 4941

E-mail: [vnr@laaketietokeskus.fi](mailto:vnr@laaketietokeskus.fi)

The order form (Attachment 1) can be found on the Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd's website, [www.laaketietokeskus.fi](http://www.laaketietokeskus.fi).

By using the Vnr extranet service (<https://vnr.fi>) companies can order Vnr numbers swiftly and electronically. Companies can also see the real-time situation of their Vnr numbers in Finland. A user name and password will be needed to use the extranet service; these can be obtained from Pharmaceutical Information Centre or the applicant's main user. There are also special instructions available at Pharmaceutical Information Centre.

### **Common or national Nordic article number?**

A common Nordic article number can be obtained for a product if the following criteria are met in all Nordic countries:

#### **1. Trade name**

- Differences such as Glukos/Glukose are allowed.

#### **2. Marketing authorisation holder**

- Same group of companies.

### **3. Pharmaceutical dosage form**

- Differences in expressions in different Nordic countries are permitted, as long as the composition is the same and the term complies with the EU Standard Terms, for example coated tablet vs film-coated tablet.

### **4. Strength**

- Differences in expressions are permitted, for example 1 % vs. 10 mg/ml.

### **5. Pack size**

### **6. Type of package**

**Attention!** *Package text and/or package leaflet:* Presuming that the six above mentioned criteria are met, but the package text and/or the package leaflet differ within the Nordic countries, a common Vnr number will be assigned, unless a request for a national number is specified on the order form.

### **Pricing of the Vnr-service**

The charges for the Vnr-service will be confirmed annually. A maintenance fee is charged for old Vnr numbers and an opening fee for new Vnr numbers. The opening fee includes maintenance costs until the end of the first calendar year. New Vnr numbers are invoiced monthly, old Vnr numbers are invoiced annually.

Costs from the Vnr for the year 2007 are as follows:

\* Annual maintenance fee 20,00 € (+ VAT) / Vnr

\* New Vnr opening fee 45,00 € (+ VAT) / Vnr

- Includes maintenance fee for first year

Value added tax (22 %) will be added to the price.

Note that the opening fee will be invoiced for all new Vnrs, even if the company withdrew the numbers shortly after assignment.