

PRESS RELEASE

22nd February 2008

Major Pharmacy bodies join forces to respond to the consultation on Pandemic Influenza Legislation

The CCA, AIMp, NPA, RPSGB, PSNC, CPS and CPW have today joined together in their response to the Department of Health's initial consultation on Pandemic Influenza legislation.

The joint response outlines and describes the scale of the issues facing pharmacy which will apply to all community pharmacies across England, Wales and Scotland. In a Pandemic the public will rely on the continuation of services from their pharmacies. This is why it is essential that pharmacy is fully engaged in the planning process now.

The shared experience of the seven organisations supporting this submission includes professional development, regulation, trade and NHS service delivery and negotiation.

The organisations are actively campaigning for national minor ailments services, an improved emergency supply regime properly funded by the NHS, and proactive identification now of solutions to the legislative barriers that could undermine patient care if not addressed before the outbreak of a Pandemic.

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Notes to editors

The Association of Independent Multiples (AIMp) has over 1200 pharmacies in membership and represents the interests of the independent multiple sector. Its members have between 5 to 300 shops, and include: Day Lewis plc, HI Weldrick Ltd and PCT Healthcare.

The Company Chemists Association (CCA) provides a forum for the major businesses engaged in community pharmacy to work together to help create an environment where community pharmacy can flourish, and where pharmacy contractors compete in a fair and equitable way. The CCA's nine member companies are: Alliance Boots, Co-operative Group Pharmacy, LloydsPharmacy, Tesco, J Sainsbury, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, Asda Wal-Mart, Rowlands Pharmacy and Superdrug. Between them they own over 5,000 pharmacies, representing around 45% of the pharmacies in the United Kingdom.

The National Pharmacy Association (NPA) was established in 1921 as the trade association of community pharmacy owners and has virtually all pharmacy owners in the UK in voluntary membership. To reflect the changes in the pharmacy environment the NPA now extends membership and its associated benefits to all members of the community pharmacy infrastructure.

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England and Wales. Much

of the PSNC's work involves discussions and negotiations with the Department of Health.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. It also regulates pharmacy technicians on a voluntary basis, which is expected to become statutory under anticipated legislation. The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy.

Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) is the body empowered to represent the contractor owners of Scotland's 1200 community pharmacies. It negotiates on their behalf with the Scottish Government on all matters of terms of service and contractors' NHS activity. Community Pharmacy Scotland works to increase the profile of community pharmacy and develop the role of community pharmacists within a modern NHS in Scotland and engages key stakeholders and the Scottish Government to influence policy on behalf of its members.

Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) is the body that represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to secure the best possible NHS services provided by pharmacy contractors in Wales. It is the body recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government in accordance with ss 83 and 85 National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 as representative of persons providing pharmaceutical services.

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