



ALL-PARTY PHARMACY GROUP

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All-Party Pharmacy Group inquiry into medicines shortages: call for written evidence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shortages of NHS prescription medicines continue to prove a daily challenge for patients and pharmacists across the country.

Patients may be put at risk when medicines are not available, and pharmacists spend significant amounts of time trying to source medicines that are in short supply. Medicines for almost every major condition, including diabetes and respiratory disease, have at some point in the past two years gone into shortage.

The All-Party Pharmacy Group is holding a full-scale inquiry into this issue. The Group is now calling for written evidence, after which it will invite witnesses to attend evidence sessions in Parliament before producing a report containing its conclusions and recommendations for actions.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The APPG invites written evidence from interested parties. Evidence can contain any material considered relevant, but should address some or all of the following questions:

- Where are the causes of medicines shortages?
- What problems have medicines shortages caused for supply chain participants?
- What problems have medicines shortages caused for patients?
- To what extent has the work the government has led in tackling the issue helped? Why has it not resolved the problem?
- What action should the pharmacy sector take to resolve the issues of medicine shortages?
- What action should manufacturers take to resolve the issue of medicines shortages?
- What action should wholesalers take to resolve the issue of medicines shortages?
- What action should the MHRA and the Department of Health take to resolve the issues of medicines shortages?
- To what extent is European law a barrier to resolving the issue?

The All-Party Pharmacy Group receives financial support from the Company Chemists' Association, the National Pharmacy Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The Group receives secretariat support from Luther Pendragon.

- Are there systemic problems in the medicines supply chain that make shortages likely or even inevitable?

· What solutions or recommendations would you make to help reduce and control the problem?

The deadline for the submission of written evidence is 23 December. Submissions may be accepted after that date by agreement with the Group's secretariat.

NOTES ON SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN EVIDENCE

Written evidence should be in Word or PDF format and sent by e-mail to appg@luther.co.uk with the subject "APPG submission". The e-mail should also make clear which organisation or individual the submission is from and must include a contact name, telephone number and postal address. Submissions sent by email are preferred. Any hard copy submissions should be sent to: APPG Secretariat, Luther Pendragon, Priory Court, Pilgrim Street, London, EC4V 6DR. The deadline is 23 December 2011.

As a guideline submissions should be no longer than 3000 words. However, please contact the Group's secretariat if you wish to discuss this matter.

Submissions should be in the format of a self-contained memorandum. Paragraphs should be numbered for ease of reference, and the document should, if possible, include an executive summary.

Submissions should be original work written for the All-Party Group. However, If a submission has previously been published or circulated elsewhere, it must be labelled as such.

Once submitted, a submission may be used by the APPG and may be referred to in the Group's report or in other communications by the Group. Anything that is confidential and not for publication must be marked as such.

More information can be found on the APPG website: www.appg.org.uk

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