



ALL-PARTY PHARMACY GROUP

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Chair: Dr Howard Stoaate MP
Vice Chair: Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL
Treasurer: Sandra Gidley MP
Secretary: Mark Todd MP

All-Party Pharmacy Group announces investigation into medicine adherence

- Group to examine the impact of poor medicine adherence on patients and the NHS at a public meeting on Tuesday 19th January in the House of Commons

06 January 2010: Chair of the All-Party Pharmacy Group Dr Howard Stoaate MP has announced that the Group's next public meeting will focus on poor medicine adherence, following concerns from pharmacists and other leading health professionals that patients are putting their health at risk by failing to take their prescribed medicine correctly.

Poor medicine adherence has been estimated to cost over £100 million each year, and for patients themselves it can compromise their health and risk unnecessary hospitalisation. Recent research shows a worrying trend of patients increasingly disregarding the course of medical treatment prescribed by a healthcare professional, with between 30% and 50% of prescribed medicines not taken as recommended.

Dr Howard Stoaate MP, Chair of the APPG, said;

“Poor medicine adherence is an extremely costly problem, and one that any incoming Government will need to urgently address. By improving patients' knowledge and approach to taking medicines, the NHS will be able to reduce wastage, reap considerable cost savings and significantly improve the health outcomes of patients. Community pharmacists are experts in frontline medicine, and therefore can play a crucial role in helping to improve the situation. The meeting on 19th January has been set up to bring together pharmacists and other key stakeholders to talk constructively about practical steps that can be taken moving forward.”

The APPG meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th January 2010 at 3pm in Committee Room 14 in the House of Commons.

-ENDS-

For more information, please contact Toby Pellew or Natalie Bateman on 0207 618 9100.

About the APPG

The All-Party Pharmacy Group was formed in December 1999 to raise awareness of the profession of pharmacy, and to promote pharmacists' current and potential contribution to the health of the nation. The group receives financial support from the Company Chemists' Association, the National Pharmacy Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. It receives administrative assistance from Luther Pendragon.

Further information about the All-Party Pharmacy Group is available on the Group's website www.appg.org.uk