



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

Leading MPs launch investigation into drug shortages

- Situation is “not acceptable” says All-Party Pharmacy Group
- Meeting set to examine the issue on Tuesday 27th October in the House of Commons

15 September 2009: Chair of the All-Party Pharmacy Group Dr Howard Stoaate MP has announced that the Group’s next public meeting will focus on the issues around drug shortages, following concerns from community pharmacists that patients are suffering due to difficulties in sourcing certain medicines.

Recent stock shortages have meant that an increasing number of patients have been unable to access prescriptions that are often crucial in maintaining health. Drug shortages have been blamed in part on parallel exporting and quotas set by drug manufacturers.

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

“It is not acceptable for patients to be put at risk due to drugs shortages. Our priority is that patients can access drugs safely and efficiently and we are increasingly concerned by reports that people are unable to access important medicines. Community pharmacists play a crucial role in delivering medicine and key health services to communities across the UK, but this role is now being threatened”.

“The simple fact is that for many patients the situation could easily become life threatening if they are unable to get hold of their medicine. We therefore need to understand why we are experiencing this problem. The meeting on the 27th October will bring key stakeholders together to talk constructively about the steps that can be taken to end stock shortages”

The APPG meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th October 2009 at 15.30pm in Committee Room 9 in the House of Commons.

-ENDS-

For more information, please contact Toby Pellew 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