



3 December, 2004

## **NPA MAKES THE CASE FOR INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS**

The NPA Board has approved a position paper outlining the benefits of including community pharmacists among those pharmacists who should be given the opportunity to become independent prescribers. The paper is the culmination of discussions about the subject over the past year. It highlights benefits to patients and the NHS as well as to pharmacists – and it outlines the various issues that need to be considered if independent prescribing for community pharmacists was taken forward.

NPA Chairman, Ash Soni, already qualified as a supplementary prescriber, said: “The pharmacy profession is well placed to play a significant role in independent prescribing and community pharmacists have a particular contribution to make in increasing access and choice for treatment of minor ailments both during normal hours and out-of-hours.

“Independent prescribing will also enhance the role of supplementary prescribers in all sectors of the profession. It has the potential to allow those prescribers to prescribe medicines for conditions not listed in the clinical management plan and which may or may not be related to the long term condition for which the patient is being treated.

“This paper will form the basis of our representation to Government during its consultation on pharmacist independent prescribing. It is also intended to inform our members of our position on this issue.”

[Independent prescribing by community pharmacists – quality, choice and access – NPA position paper](#)

ENDS

**Notes to editors**

1. The National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) is the trade association that represents the professional and commercial interests of the owners of around 11,000 community pharmacies in the United Kingdom.
2. A copy of the position paper is **attached** with emails. If you need a faxed copy or further information please call the NPA Press Office: 01727 858687 ext. 3311, 3265 or 3227