

Press Release



15 July 2004

NPA STATEMENT ON SHIPMAN FOURTH REPORT

John D’Arcy, Chief Executive of the National Pharmaceutical Association says:

“Lessons need to be learnt from Shipman and everything needs to be done to prevent any recurrence of a case like this. The NPA therefore recognises the importance of this report as a means of improving the way controlled drugs are managed throughout the healthcare system.

“We now need to examine the report and its recommendations very carefully with a view to assessing its impact on community pharmacists’ ability to deliver safe and effective patient care. While wishing to ensure that the recommendations of the report are implemented into community pharmacy practice we do have some initial concerns that some of the recommendations will be difficult to implement. In submissions made by the NPA to the enquiry we were at pains to point out that the recommendations needed to be proportionate and that they should not create unnecessary bureaucracy for our members in delivering patient care. In particular we are keen to avoid anything that impairs patient access to such essential medicines.

“It is our intention to work closely with the Department of Health and other pharmacy bodies to ensure that the report’s recommendations for community pharmacy are practicable and can be implemented at the earliest possible date.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. The National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) represents the professional and commercial interests of the owners of around 11,000 community pharmacies in the United Kingdom.
2. For more information, please contact the NPA Press Office, on: 01727 858687, ext.3340, 3227, 3265, 3311 or email: press.office@npa.co.uk.