

Press Release



2 September 2003

New Arrangements for Supply of Generic Medicines NPA Response

The Government's new thinking on reimbursement of Pharmacy Contractors for Generic Medicines is a significant improvement on the proposals put forward in 2001. The DoH appears to have accepted that its initial options were detrimental to both pharmacies and the Government - because they did not provide the NHS with the benefits to be gained by using pharmacy owners' entrepreneurial skills in purchasing.

The fact that the Government is now proposing that incentives for pharmacists will be built into the system is a great step forward. The key issues, of course, will be the link between the Drug Tariff price and the prices charged by manufacturers.

However, the Government must recognise that the economic viability of using pharmacies is linked to two factors – payments from the global sum and discounts on purchases. If there is any significant decrease in the latter the Government would have to increase remuneration if the necessary network of pharmacies is to be maintained. This point will be a prominent feature of the NPA's response to this consultation.

-ends

Notes to Editors

1. The NPA is the association which represents the professional and commercial interests of the owners of some 11,000 community pharmacies
2. For further information, please contact the NPA Press Office on: 01727-858687, ext 3340, 3227, 3311 or email press.office@npa.co.uk