

**NPA NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY – *NPA LINK* – GOES LIVE**

The National Pharmaceutical Association's new individual membership category - *NPA Link* – goes live from 1 January 2005. Membership in this category provides vital member benefits to meet the professional needs of all pharmacists, whatever their chosen field of practice.

Those eligible include:

- LPC Secretaries
- Pharmacy Managers and Pharmacists working within community pharmacy
- LPC secretaries
- PCO pharmacists
- Hospital pharmacists
- Locum pharmacists
- Practice pharmacists
- Portfolio pharmacists/consultants
- Pharmacists working for industry, other pharmacy bodies, publishing or computer software suppliers
- PEC pharmacists

*NPA Link* membership gives individuals access to the benefits of information, advice and services that the NPA has to offer. These include:

- NPA Education and Training
- NPA Information Department
- NHS Service Development and its regular mailings
- NPA Sales – a diverse range of products and services
- Publications
- Legal and Personnel advice

- The opportunity to make your views known to the NPA Board on key policy issues
- NPAnet – keep in touch with NPA, pharmacy, medicines, healthcare and political news and information by accessing our member-only intranet
- Public Affairs and PR activities

John D'Arcy, chief executive of the NPA, comments: "This is part of our objective to expand NPA membership as widely as possible to reflect the changing face of community pharmacy and in particular its changing patterns of employment. The new membership category allows us to reflect the views of the community pharmacy sector in its entirety, and so ensure that the NPA is truly representative of the sector as a whole. Our overall aim is simple – to provide the strategic support, quality products, advice and services which are fundamental to successful community pharmacy practice."

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. NPA LINK membership prices:

| Area of practice   | Annual fee (plus VAT) |
|--|-----------------------|
| Working in community pharmacy exclusively employed or engaged by NPA members | £50                   |
| Working in other areas of pharmacy practice                                  | £80                   |
| Working in community pharmacy engaged by non-NPA members                     | £400                  |

3. Membership enquirers can call the NPA Membership Department on: 01727 858687, ext. 3235 or email: [membership@npa.co.uk](mailto:membership@npa.co.uk)
4. Press enquirers can contact the NPA Press Office on 01727 858687 ext. 3340, 3265, 3227, 3229 or email: [press.office@npa.co.uk](mailto:press.office@npa.co.uk)