



Response to [ARM 17](#) (Request to reclassify Scopoderm 1.5mg patch from POM to P) from the NPA.

Response of the National Pharmaceutical Association to ARM 17

Thank you for giving the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) the opportunity to comment on consultation letter ARM 17 on proposals to extend the availability of Scopoderm 1.5mg Patch from POM to P.

The NPA represents the interests of community pharmacies. We have, in voluntary membership, around 11,000 community pharmacies, which comprises the majority of the 12,000 pharmacies in the UK, with the exception of the Boots chain. The NPA provides a representative voice for its members as well as a range of services to help them with both commercial and professional aspects of running their businesses.

The application makes reference to pharmacy training material but this material is not available for comment. We would like this material to be open to scrutiny as part of the consultation process. The launch of this product should be accompanied by training aimed at pharmacists and medicine counter assistants. In our view the training should include:

- background information to the condition and symptoms
- product knowledge
- protocol for supply
- guidance for medicine counter assistants on when to refer to the pharmacist
- guidance for pharmacists on when to refer to the GP.

The training should be backed up by some assessment tools to show transference of knowledge into the workplace.

The NPA welcomes extensions to the pharmacist's armamentarium by expansion of the 'Pharmacy' only class with the proposed pharmacy availability of Scopoderm 1.5mg Patch.

Therefore, the NPA supports this proposal.