

## **PSNC gives evidence to MPs on medicines shortages**

Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC gave evidence to the All Party Pharmacy Group Inquiry into Medicines Shortages at the House of Commons this morning (7<sup>th</sup> February 2012). PSNC gave evidence alongside Pharmacy Voice, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Independent Pharmacy Federation.

Sue Sharpe told MPs about community pharmacy's experience of the burdens created by quotas imposed by manufacturers and wholesalers, and the impact of stock shortages on patient care. The PSNC Chief Executive went on to describe how all the players in the supply chain could work towards a solution.

### **PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:**

"I was delighted to give evidence to the All Party Pharmacy Group on behalf of contractors, and it's very encouraging to see that parliamentarians are taking an interest in this troubling issue.

"We all know that manufacturers, wholesalers and community pharmacists need to work together to resolve this issue – pharmacists already work extremely hard to minimise the impact of stock shortages on patients. But PSNC is clear that the first step is for manufacturers and wholesalers to commit to implement the joint best practice guidance on supply within twenty four hours.

"Supply within twenty four hours is an absolute requirement of a first class dispensing service. I believe with the commitment, we can work with manufacturers and wholesalers to meet this and address their concerns. If not then Government will need to regulate in order to ensure safe and prompt supply to pharmacies and to patients."

### **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

- PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
- The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as the representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible NHS service opportunities, remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England. PSNC represents and promotes the interests of 10,500 pharmacy contractors (pharmacy owners) in England. It is the role of PSNC to liaise with the Department of Health and representatives of the NHS in England to negotiate the contractual terms for the provision of NHS community pharmacy services.
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