

The government claims that it will save the NHS money with such proposals. This is not true. Dispensing Doctors are more cost efficient in their use of medicines than Non-Dispensing Doctors and cost the Government less! The government plans to spend money on pharmacists to provide services we already do effectively – stopping smoking services, cardiovascular assessments, diabetic checks, and sexual health checks. There are (as yet) no clear standards of quality and safety for these services within commercial pharmacies. The successful management of medical conditions will rely on effective communication between your GP and the pharmacist. A scheme already exists, which has exposed the frailty of this proposition (medicine use reviews by pharmacist). Poorly co-ordinated care will be bad for patients, dissatisfying for pharmacists and frustrating for doctors.

Pharmacists have already publicly stated they do not want these new arrangements.

You can help make a difference to what happens. This government has said that it listens. Make it listen to you! If you want all the details there are 100 pages of documents available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324

If you would like to help our surgery to continue dispense medicines to you, and to maintain its high standards of care, please voice your concerns by writing to the Department of Health using following address:

Gillian Farnfield
Department of Health
Medicines Pharmacy and Industry Group
Area 453D Skipton House
80 London Road
London SE1 6LH

Alternatively, you can email your concerns to: PWPCONS@dh.gsi.gov.uk

SINCE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS HAS ALREADY STARTED, THERE IS ONLY LIMITED TIME TO LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

Please help us by writing **NOW** to the Department of Health.

Please send a copy of your letter to your MP so that he knows how you feel. For those living out of Hastings this is:

Gregory Barker MP, 6a Amherst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1QJ
Tel: 01424 736861 Fax: 01424 734910. Email: sargente@parliament.uk

Please help us continue to provide you with a good service.

Yours sincerely

**DR STEVE STERN
DR CAROLINE HARGREAVES
DR PETER MIRCHANDANI**