



Dear colleague,

You will be aware that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is currently consulting on changes to the reimbursement for the costs of drugs dispensed by NHS contractors. Details of the proposals are available [online](#).

Whilst these proposals are welcome and are, for the most part, in tune with the views of the DDA, the DHSC has not published an impact assessment on the effects of the changes on dispensing doctors. In addition, the DHSC is not intending to discuss the implementation with any other representative body, other than the PSNC which represents community pharmacists. This is unacceptable to the DDA because we will have no way of knowing the effects of the change until they are implemented.

NHS England is responsible for the GP contract, which includes dispensing doctors, and it is unclear whether NHS England will discuss the proposals with the GPC/BMA, who negotiate the GP contract. The DDA will meet the GPC shortly to clarify the position and express members' desire for an effective, informed outcome for dispensing practice.

In the meantime, I am asking for your urgent help to lobby your local MP to ensure that dispensing practices are not left out of these important changes. I consider this matter to be as serious as the threat posed by the Pharmacy White Paper of 2008 and it is very important to the future of your practice.

To assist you, our communications team have drafted a template letter for you to adapt to highlight your individual or local concerns or circumstances and send to your MP. We would urge you to take the time to individualise your letter as this is shown to be more effective than a template response. The template can be found in the library of DDA [member resources](#). A list of MPs and their contact details is available [online](#).

The DDA will keep you informed of progress in our regular email alerts, via our website and at our annual conference at the Best Practice Show on 9-10 October at the NEC, details of which are available on the DDA's conference page, [online](#).

Thank you for your support.

Richard West
Chairman
Dispensing Doctors' Association