



Dispensing Doctors' Association (DDA)

Call to Action

The Dispensing Doctors' Association is asking local politicians to add their voice in support of a solution to the ongoing challenges in dispensing practice. The DDA's 'Call to Action' promotes successful and sustainable dispensing practice based on three core principles:

That the NHS GP dispensing service is always:

- ✔ Right for the patient ✔ Right for the NHS **AND** ✔ Right for the practice

The problems...

... for patients:

Nine million patients (13 per cent) of the UK population live in rural areas where access to a pharmacy is usually very limited. Pharmacies can offer a range of proven medicines services that promote safety and cost-efficiencies for the NHS – but these are currently unavailable to patients living in rural areas who receive NHS medicines from a dispensing GP.

Key take-away: The rights of dispensing patients must always be respected equally when considering pharmaceutical service policy in rural areas



... for the NHS:

Developments such as the Electronic Prescription Service secure significant operational efficiencies throughout the NHS and for patients. However, around 1,200 dispensing practices across the UK are yet to secure NHS funding to implement this vital technology in their practices.

Key take-away: Dispensing practice policy and funding should encourage and protect innovation in dispensing practice

... for the dispensing doctor practice:

- ✔ Profit margin control measures in dispensing practice (known as the NHS 'clawback') are now 25 years old; they no longer reflect the current drug marketplace and expose dispensing practices to financial penalties on hundreds of items, affecting **every practice, every time** that they dispense these items.

These measures require immediate and regular review.

- ✔ The dispensing fees envelope has not been updated in line with inflation since 2019. Effectively, this has devalued the fee by 20 per cent, putting immense pressure on dispensing practice operating costs and forcing cut-backs. This puts patient safety at risk and reduces local employment opportunities.

This funding envelope requires urgent review.

Key take-away: Dispensing practices should never be expected to operate and dispense at a loss



In the run-up to the next election, the DDA is seeking the support of all politicians to ensure that rural constituents **are always represented in health policy.**

Together, let's create a GP service that **always** takes into account the **unique needs of rural patients**