

Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

On behalf of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited and Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

For immediate release:

Leeds GPs and Pharmacists call on Government to take urgent action on prescription drug shortages

Leeds Local Medical Committee and Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire have joined forces to urge the Government to take firm action on the growing problem of prescription drug shortages.

They have written a joint letter to Lord Freddie Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health, explaining that both GP practices and community pharmacies are experiencing daily problems with the lack of availability of common medicines.

Robbie Turner, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire, commented:

“Local pharmacists are spending several hours each week chasing drugs and trying to help and reassure patients. We know this is a complex problem but the Government must sort it out as a matter of urgency.”

Dr Richard Vautrey, Assistant Medical Secretary of Leeds LMC, commented:

“Our patients are being caused unnecessary concern and distress, when they find that their regular medication is not available. We are concerned that valuable NHS time and resources are wasted, as we make arrangements to prescribe alternatives which are sometimes not as good for the patient as the originally prescribed medication. The Department of Health needs to find a solution to this problem – and find it quickly.”

For further information please contact:

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Note: Please find attached a copy of the letter to Lord Howe