

Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

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11 June 2013



Earl Howe
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
SW1A 2NS

Dear Lord Howe

Re: Prescription Drug Shortages

We wish to draw to your attention the fact that both GP practices and community pharmacies are experiencing daily problems with the lack of availability of common medicines.

Valuable time and resources are being wasted, as pharmacists spend several hours each week chasing drugs. Our patients are being caused unnecessary concern and distress, as medication which they have taken regularly and which has been prescribed by their GP is not available.

Two recent examples that have caused significant worry for patients are the shortages of disulfiram and trazodone. Disulfiram is used for alcohol dependence and a lack of supply has prevented a patient remaining free from alcohol. Lack of supply of trazodone, a drug used for a variety of mental health problems, has led to delays in commencing treatment which has caused increased anxiety for a number of patients.

Whilst we understand the complexity of the issues involved, we urge the Government to take firm action to find a solution to this problem and thus ensure that patients are able to access the medication they need.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raj Menon'.

Raj Menon
Chair
Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robbie Turner'.

Robbie Turner
Chief Executive
Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire