



*British Association of  
Pharmaceutical Wholesalers*

## PRESS RELEASE

British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers  
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### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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## Tough Action to Support Medicines Supply

**BAPW - UK, 05 March 2010**

The British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers welcomes and supports the actions agreed at the Ministerial Summit this week. A package of measures to ensure that NHS patients can get the medicines they need was agreed at a summit meeting held to discuss concerns about current difficulties with the supply of medicines.

The summit was hosted by Health Secretary, Andy Burnham MP, and Health Minister Mike O'Brien MP, on Tuesday, March 2nd. Participants included medicines supply chain representatives from across the UK - including the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, the British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers, the National Pharmacy Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, together with the respective representatives from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The meeting was held to discuss the nature and scale of medicines supply problems and how the issues could be tackled collaboratively.

Martin Sawer, Executive Director of the BAPW commented:

"We are pleased to see that the focus of responsibility is being shared throughout the medicines supply chain – from manufacturer through wholesale to pharmacy and doctor. By working collaboratively through the Supply Chain Group, all supply chain players will have the opportunity to understand each particular medicine's problems – ranging from whether enough product is being manufactured, through to whether that product is being exported when in short supply, by traders.

Moreover, we are delighted that our concerns about Wholesale Dealer's Licences have been recognised and that the work of BAPW members to uphold the highest standards, through our Responsible Persons' Committee and the BAPW Gold Standard of Distribution Practice, has become a benchmark for our sector. Accordingly, we welcome

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wholeheartedly the intention of the Government to raise the standards required for wholesaler dealer's licences; standards which we expect BAPW members already observe".

BAPW members are committed to putting UK patients first and the Association will continue to play a full role in the Supply Chain Group.

BAPW members hold only 11 of the 1,800 Wholesaler Dealer's Licences (WLs) that have been issued by the MHRA across the UK. It is those businesses who hold these licences, who are not necessarily wholesalers, who are empowered to trade by virtue of possessing such a licence. This can include wholesalers, manufacturers, pharmacies, doctors, traders and brokers – this last group may never physically handle any medicines at all.

**ENDS**

#### **About the BAPW**

The British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (BAPW) is the trade association for an essential, but often overlooked, part of the medicines supply chain – full-line wholesalers. We have 11 members: AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd., F.Maltby & Sons Ltd., Lexon (UK). Ltd., Mawdsley-Brooks & Co. Ltd., Norchem Ltd., Phoenix Healthcare Distribution Ltd., P.I.F. Medical Supplies Ltd., Sangers (Maidstone) Ltd., Sangers (Northern Ireland) Ltd., Co-operative Pharmacy National Distribution Centre Ltd and Alliance Healthcare Ltd.

We continue to work with the MHRA to demonstrate the role that wholesalers play in the safe delivery of 2 billion medicines each year across the UK; in order that patients can receive their medicines when they want them and where they want them.

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