



British Association of
Pharmaceutical Wholesalers

Supply Chain Resilience

2009 Edition

June 2009

BAPW Members

AAH Pharmaceuti-
cals Ltd
Alliance Healthcare
Ltd
F. Maltby & Sons Ltd
Mawdsley-Brooks &
Co. Ltd
Norchem Ltd
Phoenix Healthcare
Distribution Ltd
P.I.F. Medical Sup-
plies Ltd
Sangers (Maidstone)
Ltd
Sangers (Northern
Ireland) Ltd
Sants Pharmaceuti-
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BAPW in 2009

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the BAPW newsletter. As you would expect, our members are absorbed in helping tackle some of the key issues that currently face the medicines supply chain. These include working with our colleagues across Government, industry and the NHS to solve the continuing problem of supply shortages; playing an integral part in pandemic flu preparedness; as well as proposals to strengthen the medicines supply chain.

The BAPW continues to work through our *Responsible Persons' Committee* to harmonise and develop the standard of RPs in pharmaceutical wholesaling. The Committee has become a critical developer and arbiter of standards, regulation and safety in the distribution chain. We are also grateful to the RP Committee's input as the BAPW developed its recent response to the MHRA consultation on proposals to strengthen the medicines supply chain.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers continue to play an important part in the BAPW, working closely alongside our full-line wholesaler membership. The joint *Manufacturers' Liaison Committee* is addressing common business policy issues as they arise in a constructive way. Their contribution is especially important to our efforts to tackle the existing challenges around stock and supply.

For today's conference we are delighted to have secured an impressive panel of speakers from around the healthcare sector. This year the conference will focus on *Medicines Supply Chain Resilience*, and will examine this subject from several perspectives. We are delighted that the MHRA has agreed to provide our keynote speaker, as we work together to ensure a properly regulated, secure supply chain, working in the best interests of patients and the NHS.

We do hope you enjoy the conference and we look forward to an interesting and topical day.

MHRA proposals to strengthen the medicines supply chain

BAPW recently submitted a response to the MHRA consultation on measures to strengthen the medicines' supply chain. The consultation sought views on a number of proposals to improve the operation of the medicines' supply chain in the UK.

Our *Responsible Persons' Committee*, supported the regulator's view that there is a need for greater controls over the licensing regime for Wholesale Dealer's Licences (WLs).

The BAPW submission highlighted that it is vital that anyone who handles pharmaceutical products should have a WL. We also acknowledged that there needs to be minimum distinct and relevant qualifications for Responsible Persons in the wholesale sector. The Association also suggested that, in collaboration with the BAPW, the MHRA consider establishing a GNVQ-level training programme for RPs to ensure a quality assurance process across the supply chain. We expect the MHRA to be making recommendations shortly for implementation in the autumn of 2009.



Swine Flu Update

The swine flu virus continues to spread and the latest official figures from the WHO, dated June 15th, show the global number of confirmed swine flu cases has passed 29,000 in 74 countries. The WHO have also declared a Level 6 global flu pandemic following an emergency meeting last week.

The Department of Health has said that most UK cases of swine flu

have generally been mild, but it is proving to be severe in a small minority of cases. There is still no evidence to suggest sustained community transmission. With a third of the UK's cases confirmed in Scotland, the UK total stands at over 1,300 as of June 15th.

The BAPW continues to work closely with the Department of Health in England to try and ensure that antivirals will be distrib-

uted to PCTs in the most efficient and effective way. BAPW is concerned that there could be serious regional and local variation in the implementation of the National Flu Plan under current arrangements. This could also be amplified tenfold with other medicines if a pandemic takes hold.

The BAPW also briefed the Conservative Party Health team ahead of a debate in Parliament last month.



Proposals for a 'Emergency Stock' Buffer

Over the past year, there has been a substantial increase in the number of problems that contractors are experiencing in obtaining certain branded medicines.

BAPW is seeking to work constructively with manufacturers and pharmacists to find solutions to the current problems that will help meet the needs of UK

patients more efficiently.

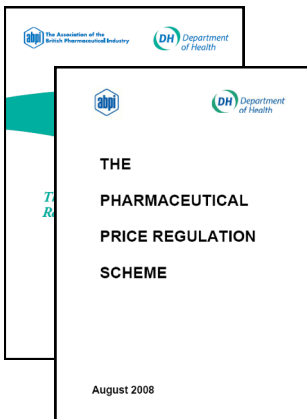
PSNC and BAPW have recently written to all affected manufacturers proposing that a buffer of "ring-fenced" emergency stock is kept by pharmaceutical wholesalers. This would be distributed at the request of manufacturers.

This stock would be in addition to the existing stock quotas that some

manufacturers have placed on branded products.

There are further discussions to be held on this issues with the ABPI and the NPA to see if progress can be made.

The Department of Health is being kept informed.



Introduction of the new PPRS

BAPW was pleased that its concerns over the introduction of the new PPRS pricing regime were taken into account and the implementation date of the price cut was delayed until 1st February 2009.

This meant that, by and large, medicines supply certainty was assured over the Christmas and New

Year holiday period.

With this in mind, BAPW will be seeking to similarly delay the additional price cut due in January 2010 by one month, in order to minimise the risk of medicine shortages at a time of peak demand.

We were also grateful to those medicine manufac-

turers who communicated their new prices to wholesalers, and agreed a credit period for pre-PPRS priced stock.

This will have avoided potential shortages in the supply of vital medicines during the new year period.

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Tony Garlick, BAPW Technical Director, BAPW Business Day, March 2009

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 pharmaceutical wholesalers.

The BAPW represents only full-line wholesalers (as opposed to short-line operators). This is an important distinction to make since short liners only stock and supply products where they can make the biggest profit margins. Full-line wholesalers on the other hand offer a full range of products to their customers, even those lines where there is little or no profit mark up.

It is the BAPW's responsibility to its members to ensure that their interests are represented; that their views are respected; and that the vital role that they play in the supply chain is valued by policy-makers and other key stakeholders.

www.bapw.net

Forthcoming events

BAPW Parliamentary Reception Wednesday 21st October 2009 House of Commons

In October, the BAPW will be holding a Parliamentary reception in the House of Commons hosted by Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Minister Sandra Gidley MP.

The Opposition Health Spokesperson, Mark Simmonds MP, is expected to be our keynote speaker at the event providing insight into the Conservative Party's health priorities, as well as commenting on pharmaceutical wholesaling, given his contact with BAPW and his visit to Maltby & Sons earlier this year.

BAPW Business Day Wednesday 18th November 2009 Venue to be confirmed

In November, the BAPW will be bringing together BAPW members, policy makers, industry and senior commentators for a Business Day to discuss issues of common concern to all those impacted by the distribution of medicines.

HOLD THAT DATE!



Lindsay McClure, PSNC, BAPW Business Day, March 2009