

Political development of the day

Concerns about the **supply of medicines** during the **London Olympics** were raised in the Health Service Journal on Friday afternoon, following a leaked letter. As part of the preparations for the continuity of supply during the Olympics, **NHS London** wrote to pharmaceutical companies, asking if supply **quotas** for affected pharmacies could be relaxed. One company expressed concerns that doing so would mean wholesaling pharmacists could stockpile medicines for export, causing further shortages, but said it would fully comply with the request.

NHS London, ABPI, BAPW and the **Department of Health** continue to collaborate on this issue. ABPI has prepared the following joint media response with BAPW and is actively engaging with the media on this:

ABPI and BAPW joint statement on medicines supply during the Olympics

The ABPI, BAPW and LOCOG have all been working together to ensure that medicines supply continues as normal when London's population rises during the Olympics. In collaboration with the Department of Health a list of which pharmacies could potentially be affected has been issued to pharmaceutical companies. Manufacturers and wholesalers have been preparing for this situation and are working hard to ensure that the necessary medicines reach pharmacists as normal throughout the Olympics.

Whenever pharmacists have difficulty obtaining a specific medicine from wholesalers they should contact the medicine's manufacturer as soon as possible – this remains the case during the Olympics.

Issues

NHS REFORM

- **NHS Commissioning Board Authority recruits very senior managers**

The **NHS Commissioning Board** has announced a tranche of appointments to senior posts in the Medical, Commissioning Development, HR and Transformation Directorates. Further announcements will be made in the coming weeks.

More information is available [here](#)

RESEARCH

- **EDM on surgical trials**

Rosie Cooper MP (Lab, West Lancashire) has tabled an Early Day Motion, calling for **incentives to support surgical trials**, arguing that surgery is one of the most effective treatments for cancer, but surgical projects attract less than two percent of national funding for medical research. As yet, no other MPs have signed the Motion.

Click [here](#) for the full Hansard source

MEDICINES

- **Evaluation of the New Medicine Service**

The Department of Health have commissioned an evaluation of the **New Medicine Service** (NMS) from Nottingham University's School of Pharmacy and the UCL School of Pharmacy. The evaluation will involve the researchers conducting a randomised controlled trial of the NMS, observation of the service being provided by pharmacies and interviews with patients,

pharmacists and GPs to obtain their experiences and opinions of the service. The study, being led by investigators from Nottingham University's School of Pharmacy, runs for 18 months from January 2012 and will report to the Department of Health in summer 2013.

More information is available [here](#)

Diary

- Health Questions are scheduled for **Tuesday July 17** at 2.30pm.
- On **Wednesday July 18**, Baroness Jolly (Lib Dem) will request a short debate to ask the government about their assessment **of the future of the work of the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services**.
- The **House of Commons** will rise for Summer Recess on **July 17**; the **House of Lords** will rise **July 25**.