



## The Wychwood Surgery

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Dear Patient and Supporter of Wychwood Surgery,

We are writing to let you know that all your efforts earlier in the year by way of writing to the Secretary of State for Health, your local MP and Chief Executive of the PCT together with the signing of the national petition has led to the Government agreeing to a consultation period on the White Paper about changing the rules over where patients can get their medicines.

At the moment Wychwood Surgery patients can get their medicines here at the surgery. If the rules change patients may no longer be allowed to get their medicines from the surgery.

Both nationally and locally doctors are asking the Government to keep things as they are and not change the rules. We think it should be the patients' choice where they get their medicines and it is particularly important that elderly, disabled and those with transport difficulties can continue to get their medicines from the surgery.

If the Government's proposals become law, it is highly likely that a Pharmacy will open within the Wychwood villages. The current dispensing rules allow patients who live more than one mile away from a chemist to get their medication from their GP surgery. Under the proposed regulations once a commercial Pharmacy has opened we will no longer be able to dispense to any of our patients, this will mean the closure of the dispensary. Income from the dispensary helps to support many of the services we are able to offer and these may greatly reduce as no alternative funding will be available. The loss of income and services will lead to staff redundancies and possibly threaten the viability of the practice.

### **Your Chance to Have Your Say**

The Government is asking everyone affected, including patients, to tell them what they think. If you want to have your say please see below the details of who to write to and we recommend that you send a copy to your Member of Parliament. **Please note that previous correspondence will not count as part of the Consultation Process.**

The consultation offers 4 possible options. **We are supporting Option One - the status quo, together with Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee.** We feel it is important that our patients can continue to have the choice to get their medicines at their surgery.

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**If you want to continue to have the choice to receive your medicines from your doctors' surgery, rather than have to go to a pharmacy, please write in support of Option One - the status quo, to:**

Gillian Farnfield, MPI - Community Pharmacy Policy

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Skipton House

80 London Road

SE1 8LH

Or email: [PWPCONS@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PWPCONS@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

It is vital that you send your correspondence to the above address or email address. We would also recommend that you send a copy of your letter to your local MP, for most of us this will be David Cameron MP, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA

The most important thing is to express your personal view about whether you should be able to receive your medicines from your doctor. The Government wants to hear about your personal experience of being a patient of a dispensing practice, and what that means to you. **It is very important you let the Government know what you think, every response is counted.**

**Please be sure to put your views across in time for the deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

We very much appreciate your time and support.

Yours sincerely,

The GPs and Practice Staff  
Wychwood Surgery

For your information the four options are:

**Option One:** leave things as they are. **We are supporting Option One.**

**Option Two:** let the local Primary Care Trust decide (we are not supporting this as we are not sure it will allow doctor dispensing).

**Option Three and Option Four:** changing the rules so that instead of allowing those patients far from chemists to have their drugs dispensed by their doctors, only doctors who are more than a certain distance from a chemist may dispense to anyone. In practice this would end doctor dispensing.

#### **Additional information**

There is a form for responding to the proposals available online here:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_087324?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dID=172052&Rendition=Web](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=172052&Rendition=Web)

This is a 26 page document and the questions which concern Dispensing Doctors and their patients are Questions 20-27. There is no need to complete this form unless you want to.

The consultation document is available online here:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_087324?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dID=171238&Rendition=Web](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=171238&Rendition=Web)

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