

John Tasker House Surgery

56 New Street, Dunmow, Essex CM6 1BH
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*Drs M C Slack, J G Vernon, M K Tee, Gillian S Graves, D Tideswell
Associate GPs – Drs Jackie Stevens, Bronwen Pitt and Thidar Myint*

Dear Patient

23/10/08

Re: the new Pharmacy White Paper and loss of Doctor dispensing of medicines

The government has recently published a white paper intending to reform the dispensing of medicines in England entitled "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths-delivering the future-proposals for legislative change"

You can access the full document on the Internet at <http://tinyurl.com/5wg72g>

The paper is long with several chapters, but the one most relevant to John Tasker House Surgery patients is Chapter 4 in which it is proposed to reform which doctors are allowed to dispense medicines directly to their patients. Were these proposals for change to become law, the John Tasker House Surgery would lose its dispensary.

Following on from initial public meetings the government has recently published a discussion paper with four options for change. Option one is to leave things as they are, options two to four of the four possibilities proposed would lead to the closure of our dispensary. This would have many consequences; some of those mentioned by patients so far are on the attachment to your medicines bag.

The partner's main concerns are these:

- The loss of a highly valued community service for our rural patients
- Removal of a much utilised and respected source of information for both dispensing and prescribing patients
- The loss of a convenient separate site to a busy reception desk where patients can make enquiries about repeat or acute medicines from appropriately trained staff
- Removal of choice about where medicines are collected
- Redundancies for our dispensing staff

There is a consultation period until the 20th November 2008 and we urge as many of our patients who share our concerns to respond. You may write directly to Gillian Farnfield MPI-Community Pharmacy Policy 4th Floor, Skipton House 80 London Road SE1 6LH Or Email responses to: PWPCONS@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Your views as patients, voters and users of this important service are critical to influence the decision that will be made. Please make sure you respond and also inform as many others to do so as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Name.....

Address.....Postcode.....

I am a **dispensing / non-dispensing** (delete as appropriate) patient of The John Tasker House Surgery, 56 New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex. CM61BH

The four options for doctor dispensing in the Pharmacy White Paper are:

Option One: leave things as they are. (to stay as a dispensing practice)

Option Two: let the local Primary Care Trust decide.

Option Three and Option Four: changing the rules so that instead of allowing those patients far from pharmacies to have their drugs dispensed by their doctors, only doctors who are more than a certain distance from a pharmacy may dispense to anyone.

Q25: If you have a preference between Options 1-4, which is your preferred option and why?

Option 1 ()

Option 3 ()

Option 2 ()

Option 4 ()

Why is this your preferred Option?:

To: Gillian Farnfield
MPI – Community Pharmacy Policy
4th Floor, Skipton House
80 London Road
SE1 6LH

Email: PWPCONS@dh.gsi.gov.uk