

Maria Caulfield MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

By email

22 September 2021

Dear Minister,

Pharmacy's role to support the NHS recovery

On behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health. As the professional leadership body for pharmacists working across Great Britain, we look forward to working with you.

Pharmacists and pharmacy teams have been on the frontline of COVID-19 and have shown enormous dedication to supporting the nation's health. They will continue to play a crucial role in the success of the vaccination programme, which has been fundamental to returning people's freedoms across the country, alongside delivering vital clinical services to the public. I hope that you will be able to meet some of these pharmacy heroes and we would be happy to help facilitate this.

I appreciate you have spoken in the past about pharmacists' expertise in medicines and patient safety, including their role in the Transfers of Care Around Medicines (TCAM) project to support patients discharged from hospital. Pharmacy is the third largest health profession and, as we look ahead to building back better, I agree that we must draw on the diversity of our health professions to support the NHS recovery and reduce health inequalities. This is even more important as we head into the winter months and look to reduce the backlog of care from the pandemic.

This must be backed by investment in education and training, digital infrastructure and a more ambitious approach to advancing the clinical role of pharmacists across the NHS. Pharmacists must also have a strong voice within new Integrated Care Systems and can play a key role in joining up services across primary and secondary care, supporting prevention, tackling overprescribing, improving patient safety, and delivering the best value from medicines for the NHS and the public.

We engaged extensively with the profession and stakeholders on lessons learned during COVID-19 and shared our report and recommendations with the Department.¹ With continued pressures on the health service, I hope we can meet at the earliest opportunity about how pharmacists can support the NHS recovery.

Yours sincerely,



Thorrun Govind
Chair, English Pharmacy Board
Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Cc: Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England

¹ www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS_document_library/Open_access/Future_of_Pharmacy/Future_of_Pharmacy_Policy_Askus.pdf



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