

Notice of intention to accept commitments offered by Essential Pharma in relation to the supply of Priadel.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and College of Mental Health Pharmacists response

We commend the many of organisations that worked together to achieve these commitments and the responsiveness of the CMA to our concerns.

However, we still have some concerns about what may happen after the agreed 5 year term which is a short time in the lifetime of a pharmaceutical company. Can we assume there may be a price increase again after 5 years?

Additionally we do not believe that there is anything concrete in place to prevent the need to refer to the CMA in future. There are many generic medicines vulnerable to exploitation in this way. Legislation is needed to reduce the ability of companies to hold a dominant position over a particular share of the market, and to exploit this position of dominance.

Whilst the removal of the immediate risk is welcome news, the impact on patients cannot be underestimated. Many experienced anxiety and distress and drug shortages were reported in a number of areas with the initial announcement, some of which are having knock-on effects even beyond the UK. Patient needs must be at the centre of a carefully considered plan to prevent such an occurrence in future.

Additionally, it is not acceptable that so many clinicians had to dedicate considerable time to addressing this issue through campaigning and contingency planning to the detriment of their other crucial work.

We seek additional reassurances from this agreement, and from the CMA, that efforts will be made to legislate to prevent a reoccurrence and to improve early engagement in any instance where withdrawal of a medicine from the UK market may leave patients vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Your sincerely



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