[Your address, email address and phone number]

[MP’s name - *to find your local MP, go to* [*http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/*](http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/)]

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

[Date]

Dear Mr/s [MP’s surname],

**Local urgent and emergency healthcare**

I am writing to ask for your help to improve urgent and emergency healthcare in [your constituency/local area] - in particular through the greater use of pharmacy.

Attendance at A&E and minor injury units is up by a third over the last decade, yet 1 in 12 visits could be managed by pharmacists. Moreover, smarter use of pharmacy could reduce demand in the first place, for instance by managing common ailments or long-term conditions, administering vaccines, supplying medicines on an emergency basis, or optimising medicines at transfer of care.

There are successful examples of all these services around the UK. In Scotland, for example, the treatment of common ailments in community pharmacy is commissioned on a national basis, with a typical consultation cost of £29 per patient - as opposed to £82 in GP practices or £147 in A&E. Such a service could save the NHS £1.1 billion a year if it were also commissioned throughout England - £1.7 million in every constituency.

Though pharmacy’s potential remains under-exploited, NHS England has recently pledged to *“build the public’s understanding that pharmacies...can help them deal with coughs, colds and other minor ailments”* and make *“more appropriate use of...community pharmacies”* as well as *“far greater use of pharmacists”*. For this to happen, local commissioners must consider new forms of care provision.

I wonder whether you would consider meeting or writing to key local health stakeholders, such as senior figures from the clinical commissioning group (CCG), to find out what their plans to develop or commission pharmacist-led services in [your constituency/local area]?

I would be very pleased to discuss this in person if you are available for a face to face meeting.

Please feel free to contact me to arrange a suitable time.

Thank you for your help with this matter, I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]