

epilepsy scotland

Scotland's voice for epilepsy

11 February 2003

Ronnie Fraser
Scottish Executive
Primary Care Division
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Fraser

Regulation of Community Pharmacy

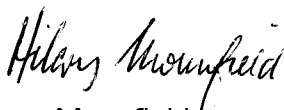
I am writing to register the concerns of Epilepsy Scotland about the OFT report recommending the abolition of the 'control of entry regulations' for pharmacy services.

People with epilepsy have a chronic, often life-long, condition and require to take medication daily. People with epilepsy whose seizures are not controlled are unable to have a driving licence and are reliant on public transport. It is vital therefore that they have easy access to a local pharmacist and there are serious grounds for concern that if deregulation goes ahead many community based pharmacies will be put out of business as the supermarkets muscle in to what they see as a lucrative new market.

The present system works well – one of very few parts of the health service which consistently delivers and is much valued by the elderly, young families and those with disabilities. Community pharmacists are being given an enhanced role in health care with responsibility for repeat prescriptions: we are presently working with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on a pilot project to develop protocols for epilepsy. It makes no sense to undermine the present provision of pharmacy care at a time when it is looking to increase its value to the community, especially those with a chronic illness.

I trust the Scottish Executive Health Department will voice strong opposition to the OFT proposal.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Mounfield
Chief Executive

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