

Hosting an MP visit at your pharmacy

Here are some steps to help you engage with your local MP and invite them to visit your pharmacy.

Finding your MP

You can find your MP and their contact details via the [UK Parliament](#) website search function.

Contacting your MP

To help you engage with your MP, we have created a template letter to invite them to visit your pharmacy. You can tailor the template letter accordingly, for example, you may already have an existing relationship with your MP.

The best way of contacting your MP is via email. Please bear in mind that MPs receive a large number of emails so there may be a delayed reply.

Hosting the visit

Here are some tips on hosting an MP visit:

- Welcome the MP and introduce yourself and your team.
- The MP will often be accompanied by their parliamentary assistant(s) so it's important to engage with them too.
- Introduce your practice – you may like to briefly talk about the history of the pharmacy, for example, how long the pharmacy has been serving the community or how long it has been in your family.
- Provide an overview of the clinical services you provide, in particular any new or innovative services.
- Talk about the essential care you provide to patients and the community, and highlight the local demographics and health challenges.
- Provide any examples of great service for patients and any positive differences you have made to patient care.
- Talk about the challenges and pressures that your pharmacy is facing.
- Provide your MP with a copy of the *NPA Briefing for MPs – Winter 2024-25*. This document can help you to deliver key messages and highlight the sector's key asks.
- Ask your MP if they can support local community pharmacies by raising these matters in Parliament and with the Government. For example, they could ask questions in Parliament or write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and the Health Secretary to ask the Government to urgently provide pharmacies with the investment and support they need to keep their doors open.
- At the end of the visit, take a photo with the MP.

Promote the MP visit and your pharmacy

Posting photo(s) on social media is a great way to thank your MP and promote your pharmacy. Ask the MP if you can tag them. Tag @NPA1921 and we will share.

Sending a press release with the MP is another great way to promote your pharmacy, gain profile for the challenges you face and build local support.

You can work with your MP's office to invite local press to attend the visit if you feel happy. Don't invite press without agreeing in advance.

We've included a template press release in our pack.

For more information or support, please contact the National Pharmacy Association:

Neil Bhayani: n.bhayani@npa.co.uk

We can provide help and advice on hosting an MP visit, including support with any social media and press/media.

We would also be delighted to support MPs wishing to raise pharmacy matters in Parliament, so please feel free to introduce us to your MP.

Finally, we would love to hear about your MP visits, so please do share your experiences with us!