

Council meeting 5 & 6 April 2005

OPEN BUSINESS

## Motions to Council

### Motion 1

**Proposed by:** Mr Martin Astbury

***That all monthly prescriptions should be written for 28 days supply***

### Background

1. The Society has a policy that supports original pack dispensing but which is not linked to a particular pack size. This policy is advocated in any communication on the subject with relevant organisations and the government.
2. The Society could advocate that pack sizes be standardised to quantities equivalent to 28 days supply. There would be some medicines where it would be difficult to achieve this, but there would be an overall improvement in the current situation.
3. The Government's response to the 4<sup>th</sup> Report of the Shipman Inquiry (Safe Management of Controlled Drugs) states that the Government intend to work with the professional regulatory bodies to issue guidance making clear that prescriptions for schedule 2-4 (controlled drugs) should normally be limited to 28-30 days supply. This flexibility is to enable pharmacists to dispense whole packs (the size of which varies between suppliers).
4. The new NHS draft regulations do not mention quantity of prescriptions and it is thought unlikely that this will appear in the drug tariff when the new regulations come into force.

Ann Lewis  
Secretary & Registrar