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11 December 2006

Dear Ms Popo

**Re: ARM 36 - Request to raise GSL pack size limit for Galpharm Hayfever and Allergy Relief**

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. It also regulates pharmacy technicians on a voluntary basis, which is expected to become statutory under anticipated legislation.

The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy.

The Society leads and supports the development of the profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

The Society has responsibility for a wide range of functions that combine to assure competence and fitness to practise. These include controlled entry into the profession, education, registration, setting and enforcing professional standards, promoting good practice, providing support for improvement, dealing with poor performance, dealing with misconduct and removal from the register.

The Society believes that the public is best protected by purchasing their medicines through a pharmacy where professional advice is available.

The Society cannot support the proposal of the increased pack size of Galpharm Hayfever and Allergy Relief. We believe that from a public health perspective, there is no clear public health benefit to be gained by providing a larger pack size of this product. In non-pharmacies, where General Sale List medicines are supplied, there is no professional advice available to customers and potentially increasing the pack size may increase the risk of inappropriate use.

In terms of the Patient Information Leaflet the Society notes that there is some inconsistency regarding when customers should contact their doctor or pharmacist for further advice relating to possible side effects and/or if symptoms worsen or do not improve. For example, the first section states 'Ask your pharmacist if you need more information or advice' followed by 'You must see your doctor if your symptoms worsen or do not improve'. Section 4 discusses possible side effects and states 'tell your doctor if you notice any of the following' followed by 'if you notice any side effects not mentioned, please inform your doctor or pharmacist'. The Society suggests that reference is made to both pharmacists and doctors throughout the Patient Information Leaflet and consideration is given to mentioning the Yellow Card Reporting Scheme.

We hope these comments are helpful.

Thank you for consulting the Society.

Yours sincerely

Sadia Khan  
Lead Pharmacist for Self-care