**Local MP [insert name] encourages [area] residents to visit a pharmacy first for help with common conditions**

Local MP for [constituency, MP name] has today visited [pharmacy name] to learn more about a new service to support people needing help with seven common conditions, known as Pharmacy First.

During the visit [insert MP name], [insert activity as it took place, e.g. discussed the service with the pharmacy team / spoke to patients benefitting from this new service etc.]

[MP name] heard that, from 31st January 2024, people across [area] can get advice and, where appropriate, NHS medicines from their local pharmacy to treat seven common conditions – and all without needing to get a GP appointment.

Pharmacists and their teams have been working extremely hard for their patients in recent years despite the enormous pressures they face. The vast majority of pharmacy owners are supportive of this new service as a means of injecting some desperately needed funding. As experts in medicines and managing minor illnesses, pharmacists can now support people of certain ages seeking help for sore throats, sinusitis, earache, infected insect bites, impetigo, shingles and urinary tract infections in women.

Not only is this available from [pharmacy name], but also a large number of pharmacies in the region have signed up to provide the new ‘Pharmacy First’ service. It is also hoped that the service will be expanded to include more conditions in the future.

By thinking ‘Pharmacy First’, people will find it easier and quicker to get the help they need and bypass the 8am rush to book an appointment with their GP. The new service is part of a wider expansion of healthcare services that will empower pharmacists to use more of their skills and give people more choice.

Find the new service at a pharmacy near you using the NHS website: ADD LINK

[Request quote from local MP’s team – **do not use a quote unless permission granted**. Some will prefer a draft quote for them to sign off, see an example below]

**Local MP [name] of [name of MP] said:**

*“I am supportive of this new service as a way to ensure that patients can more easily access the healthcare that they need. Pharmacists are medicines experts and patients and members of the public should feel assured that the healthcare advice they receive from pharmacists and their teams will be second to none. I for one will be thinking ‘Pharmacy First’, next time I have a minor illness.”*

**[Name], [role] of [LPC name] said:**

*“Pharmacists and their teams have been working extremely hard for their patients in recent years despite the enormous pressures they face. The vast majority of pharmacy owners are supportive of this new service as a means of injecting some desperately needed funding into pharmacy and their teams will be doing all they can to offer it. In future, we hope pharmacies will be supported to offer even more services like this.”*

**Notes and further detail for editors**

For further information about this press release, please contact [name, email address and phone number if possible]