**Pharmacy bodies release statement on Easter 2020 opening requirements**

“We understand that NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are preparing to direct community pharmacies to treat the forthcoming Easter weekend ‘like any normal weekend’ and to open for at least some time on Good Friday and bank holiday Monday. We expect NHSE&I to soon announce that the Secretary of State will use new powers granted to him last Friday under the National Health Service (Amendments Relating to the Provision of Primary Care Services During a Pandemic etc.) Regulations 2020. These regulations enable the NHS, with the agreement of Matt Hancock, to change the core hours of pharmacies in specified areas to include Good Friday and bank holidays.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, pharmacy teams have been working tirelessly to ensure the public can get the medicines and healthcare support that they desperately need. Despite immense pressure, community pharmacies have remained open to serve the public, keeping them well and away from hospital. We know that this Easter, as they do every year, several thousand pharmacies in England are already planning to open and provide care for their local communities.

We hope that any directive of the sector is based upon the clear evidence of a need for additional pharmacy care over and above that already planned. We are still awaiting the full details of the specific locations and hours that pharmacies will be expected to open across the Easter Weekend, and as we wait for clarity we will be supporting our members to ensure that they can provide pharmaceutical care wherever they can”.

