Written Answer

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health Committee 19th March 2015

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of clinical consultations conducted by online pharmacies.

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that online pharmacies adhere to national best practice guidelines.

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what regulatory powers the General Medical Council has to review online prescribing where there is evidence that patients may be being prescribed suboptimal treatment.

Daniel Poulter The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health 19th March 2015

The General Medical Council (GMC) guidance on remote prescribing makes absolutely clear that doctors must feel satisfied that they can make an adequate assessment, establish a dialogue and obtain the patient's consent. The GMC expect all doctors to take account of GMC guidance and relevant clinical and other guidelines regardless of how they are prescribing.

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