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Dear Colleague

## **COMMONWEALTH PHARMAID SCHEME**

I am writing to encourage your support for the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association's (CPA) PharmAid Scheme this year.

As you may be aware, the CPA is a charity that works to help improve health and wellbeing in the Commonwealth, which encompasses many poor resource settings. The CPA are involved in an increasing number of activities and projects, engaging both with governments and national pharmacy associations. PharmAid is one such initiative that encourages pharmacists and other healthcare workers to donate recent editions of pharmaceutical texts. This year, they will be collecting the past two issues of the **BNF; 74** (blue cover) and **75** (purple cover), **BNFC 2017 – 2018** (orange) and **38<sup>th</sup> edition of Martindale**. These books will be distributed to healthcare professionals in less resource-rich countries, facilitated by the CPA's contacts with pharmaceutical societies throughout the Commonwealth.

Since PharmAid commenced over 100,000 books have been collected and redistributed, and from the evaluations that are completed each year it is obvious that the need for these books continues to grow. I cannot emphasise too strongly the extent to which healthcare professionals in many lower income countries in the Commonwealth, with little or no independent information on medicines, appreciate receiving these publications through PharmAid. The Scheme relies considerably on the continued and generous support of Celesio, UK and in particular, its drivers from AAH Pharmaceuticals Limited who will collect the books from hospitals and community pharmacies during the period **16<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.

This last year I have also had the pleasure of working closely with the CPA in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund to develop opportunities for NHS pharmacists to lead multidisciplinary teams and develop partnerships with hospital institutions in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia in order to share learning and develop antimicrobial stewardship initiatives. This is hugely exciting and a fantastic opportunity to help demonstrate the importance of the unique skill-set that pharmacists possess in helping to take a lead on tackling this global problem.

I hope you are once again able to support the CPA in their PharmAid Scheme this year. For more information, please visit the CPA's website: [www.commonwealthpharmacy.org](http://www.commonwealthpharmacy.org)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. W. Ridge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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**NHS England**