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**From:** Alison Verhoeven [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NPSA AA1000480

Dear Ms Dwyer

Thank you inviting the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association to comment on the public benefits and likely effect on competition in relation to the National Pharmaceutical Services Association's application to coordinate to stabilise the supply chain for medicines and pharmacy products during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association is a not-for-profit national peak body representing public and not-for-profit hospitals, Primary Health Networks, community health centres, aged care providers and other businesses, the majority of whom are engaged in providing health and related services. The impact of COVID-19 on the availability of medicines and pharmacy products has been significant. We anticipate this will have a major and long-lasting impact on the health of all Australians, not only for those experiencing COVID-19, but also for the many Australians who are now unable to access regular health care.

It is therefore a matter of significant urgency that every effort be made to ensure the stability of the supply chain for medicines and pharmacy products, including the coordination by the pharmaceutical services sector of their activities.

This application is strongly supported by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association as being critical to the ability to address significant supply constraints in the health sector, and in ensuring health services are appropriately resourced to support patient care.

I would be pleased to provide any additional comments or information as required.

Yours sincerely

Alison Verhoeven  
Chief Executive  
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association  
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Sent from my iPad

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