



**Royal  
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# Statement

**For immediate release**

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## **SEVERE PROBLEMS WITH NEW OXYGEN SERVICE**

David Pruce, Director of Practice and Quality Improvement at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, says:

“The death of Alice Broderick brings to the public attention severe problems in the introduction of the new oxygen service. We had been deeply concerned about the new service prior to it going live on 1 February. There is no doubt that delays to the implementation of the new service (originally due to go live 1 October 2005 but postponed for four months) have caused confusion and we question why this exercise was undertaken during the winter months. Pharmacists across England and Wales have been approached by worried patients who have not received their expected oxygen supplies. Although responsibility for oxygen supply has now transferred to the NHS Home Oxygen Service, pharmacists are doing their utmost to ensure that patients get access to a supply and also to help them understand how the new system should work. The Department of Health must engage with this entirely unacceptable situation and ensure that patients' access to home oxygen is restored.”

**Ends**

**For further information please contact Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's**

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