



Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see below a letter for publication:

Sir,

I welcome the announcement that pharmacies will be providing blood pressure checks for the over 40s (Blood pressure checks to be offered by pharmacies, 24th August).

However, this policy does not account for the significant numbers of patients in rural communities who do not have access to pharmacy. In these circumstances, their local GP surgery is permitted to dispense medicines to them, but not provide any of the additional services available via pharmacies.

There is an absence of 'rural proofing' to NHS policy, and government policy generally, where policy makers seem to think that the world stops outside of big cities and towns.

When will rural communities be afforded their fair share of the pie?

Yours faithfully,

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