

## This is why our pharmacy will also be closed on 14 June 2023 – in protest

Dear patient,

usually it is you who come to us for quick and professional help. Today it is us who turn to you with a concern. We ask for your understanding that our pharmacy will be closed on Wednesday, 14 June 2023. In protest.

**We recommend that you receive your medications ahead of time on other days and address any questions to the pharmacy team before or after the protest day if possible. Emergency supplies will be provided by emergency pharmacies on this day.** (You can find these here: [www.aponet.de](http://www.aponet.de) → Emergency service search).

We are protesting because the Federal Government's policy massively endangers our work - the proper supply of citizens.

- » Because of the many supply bottlenecks, pharmacy teams need as much flexibility as possible in their work in order to be able to supply patients quickly. However, the supply system is full of bureaucracy and the threat of penalty payments to the health insurance companies.
- » Working in a pharmacy is challenging and needs a lot of expertise and understanding of the problems of the people who need our help. Drug supply shortages have made our work even more complicated and cost energy and time. However, pharmacies are denied financial recognition for this extra work. Here, we demand a fair solution from the politicians as well.
- » Pharmacies' fees consist to a large extent of a fixed amount, which is supposed to cover the running costs. This fixed amount has not been adjusted for ten years now, despite the immense increase in costs in the meantime. Pharmacies are therefore disconnected from the overall economic development. This is not only unfair, but now threatens the existence of pharmacies. Other important care providers, such as doctors' surgeries and hospitals, have received extra payments for this.

Recently, more pharmacies in Germany have had to close down permanently than ever before. Economic reasons are just as important as the lack of staff and junior staff. Lack of recognition and frustration over excessive bureaucracy are just as much a part of the reasons as extreme work compression and a lack of will on the part of politicians to help pharmacies and the people who work there. Cutting pharmacies means cutting the nationwide, low-threshold supply of medicines close to home. We know that: This cannot be in the interest of our patients - and that is why we are protesting - also on your behalf.