

PRESS RELEASE

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PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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PSNC response to the Office of Fair Trade (OFT) market study into medicines distribution in the UK

The Office of Fair Trading launched its market study into medicines distribution in the UK today.

Commenting on the report, **Sue Sharpe**, *Chief Executive of PSNC* stated:

"We are pleased that the OFT has identified the need to ensure that distribution arrangements protect service levels to pharmacies and therefore to patients, and we will discuss with the Department of Health the suggestion that it might seek voluntary agreements with manufacturers to ensure that multi-distribution arrangements are in place.

On discount structures, PSNC has been concerned about the increasing numbers of products whose cost to pharmacies exceed reimbursement prices. In discussions with both the OFT and DH we have emphasised the need for changes to be made to the present arrangements. We will consider the two options in greater detail when PSNC meets in January.

The PPRS arrangements are currently being re-negotiated and the OFT's recommendations will no doubt be considered as part of this review."

-- ENDS --

Notes for editors:

1. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is the body that represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to secure the best possible NHS services provided by pharmacy contractors in England and Wales.

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