

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
59 Buckingham Street
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP20 2PJ
Telephone 01296 432 823
Fax 01296 438 427
www.psn.org.uk

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For immediate release

PSNC Meeting January 2007

PSNC Plan 2007

PSNC agreed the following priorities for its work in 2007.

1. PSNC will seek to develop NHS community pharmacy services in:

- *Minor ailments*
- *Diabetes/ Obesity*
- *Sexual health services*
- *Independent prescribing*
- *Smoking cessation*
- *Flu vaccination*

2. PSNC will support contractors' financial interests. It will ensure PSNC has excellent information to support negotiations on Category M, purchase profits and other service costs (for the annual and 3 year reviews). It will work to protect contractors' interests in proposed changes to reimbursement arrangements and simplification of the Drug Tariff; provide timely information to contractors.

3. PSNC will ensure that the new contractual framework does not become stagnant. It will seek to secure new services within the national framework as advanced services and to establish minor ailments services as essential or advanced.

4. PSNC will seek to establish and develop the Medicines Use Review (MUR) service, working to ensure that the provision of MURs becomes part of the normal pharmacy service and promoting them to patients.

5. PSNC will contribute to the development of Skill Mix in the profession, supporting delegation of tasks by the pharmacist but protecting the interests of community pharmacy, and contributing to the development of implementing legislation.

6. PSNC will monitor and contribute to the NHS National Programme for IT ensuring that the implementation of ETP R2 electronic prescriptions is fair and does not allow distortion of the market. When sufficient information is available it will develop its capacity to audit electronic Rx processing. PSNC will monitor costs to contractors of the electronic prescription service and ensuring adequate funding.

7. PSNC will support LPCs in local commissioning of services from community pharmacy under Practice Based Commissioning (PBC).

The Pharmacy Supply Chain

The Committee debated the threatened changes to the pharmacy supply chain. Its prime concern, representing contractors, is to protect their financial interests and their ability to provide prompt and reliable supplies of medicines to patients. The Committee is very concerned about the potential destabilisation of the present supply arrangements that could result from Pfizer's proposed new arrangements and from other manufacturers implementing changes.

New Minister

The PSNC welcomed the appointment of Lord Hunt as the new minister with responsibility for pharmacy.

LPS contract for low volume pharmacies.

The PSNC agreed to proposals for a model LPS contract for low volume pharmacies that has been developed after consultation with some LPCs in the London area. PSNC will now commence discussions with the DH on the model and further details will be announced as soon as possible.

Control of Entry

The DH report on its review of the operation of control of entry was expected to be published on 11 January.

Contract funding

The Committee was briefed on the work currently underway on measuring delivery of the agreed funding for community pharmacies, including monitoring of purchase profits. Prescription volume increases at present are very slightly below forecasts.

MURs

Consultation on the new MUR form will begin shortly and this will be followed by a test period prior to the release of the form, which is expected to be in the spring. PSNC's LPC and Implementation subcommittee is monitoring MUR uptake.

Practice Based Commissioning

A further briefing on PBC is being issued by PSNC and LPCs are being advised to contact the PBC lead at PCTs as soon as possible to promote pharmacy involvement with PBC.

Success for Pharmacy exhibitions

Plans are well underway for the Success for Pharmacy exhibitions which take place on 4th March in Telford, 11th March Leeds and 18th March Heathrow.

The events are free to contractors and will help with communication skills for MURs, provide clinical updates, advice on patient satisfaction surveys, IT and the opportunity for one-to-one discussions with PSNC on NHS issues.

- ENDS -

If you have any queries regarding this report please contact Mike King PSNC mike.king@psnc.org.uk 01296 438405.