

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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**13 July 2007**

## **PSNC Meeting July 2007**

PSNC met on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

**Barry Andrews CBE chaired his last PSNC committee meeting The Committee thanked Barry for his outstanding leadership of the Committee and his support for pharmacy.**

### **Contract issues**

Ministerial changes have delayed progress in funding negotiations, and the consultation following the Galbraith review has not yet been published. Work continues on analysis of invoices to establish levels of buying profit. Once work on this has been completed and discussions held with the Department of Health, settlement of fees and allowances will be finalised, together with any adjustments to reimbursement needed to ensure provision of the agreed level of contract funding. PSNC's aim is to ensure that this work is completed by the end of August.

MUR figures for England in 2006-7 confirm the growth in numbers of MURs undertaken. Nearly 78,000 reviews were undertaken in March 2007, compared with 41,000 in March 2006. In the financial year more than 557,000 reviews were conducted in England; the figure in 2005-6 was under 147,000

Discussions continue on proposals to simplify the reimbursement rules.

### **PBC guidance**

PSNC has recently released a guide to PBC for Local Pharmaceutical Committees. This document has recently been highlighted as an example of good work at a recent PCC event in Birmingham. The committee noted that further work is currently underway to produce more detailed guidance for pharmacists.

## **APPG report on the Future of Pharmacy**

PSNC discussed the APPG report into the Future of Pharmacy. The committee was pleased that the proposals follow the PSNC current policies and priority service development areas. Work will be undertaken to explore further recommendations that have not been considered; these include the recommendations about local level representation and the proposed QOF approach. PSNC will develop proposals for how quality might be rewarded.

## **Implementation of DTP schemes**

The committee noted that the PSNC information team is continuing to receive reports of Pfizer threatening and in some cases imposing quotas on certain Pfizer products. Dispensing Doctors have been stated as receiving similar problems. Contractors faced with quotas that impact on patient care are encouraged to report this to the PSNC information team so that evidence of the problem can be compiled.

## **NHSBSA PPD Capacity Improvement Programme**

The committee noted that the NHSBSA PPD have confirmed that their early analysis of accuracy of their Capacity Improvement Programme (CIP) system indicated that they will be able to continue pricing within current accuracy levels. The National Prescription Research Centre will shortly be commencing the first external audit.

## **Pandemic Flu**

The PSNC service development committee considered progress on pharmacy involvement in planning for a flu pandemic. PSNC has succeeded in ensuring that that community pharmacy is included in the National Pandemic Flu Operational Framework and Community Setting Paper. Additional work is currently ongoing and involves possible inclusion of community pharmacy in the Social Care Paper, joint release of continuity planning guidance for community pharmacy by the national pharmacy bodies and DH, further pharmacy guidance on closed communities including prisons and secure mental health units and a vaccination strategy currently under development.

## **NHS IT Update**

The EPS release 2 initial implementer sites have been announced. The Committee noted that it will be essential for LPCs in these areas to work closely with PCTs and Local Medical Committees (LMCs) to ensure that the deployment of EPS Release 2 does not create local commercial imbalances. PSNC will be supporting LPCs with this.

PSNC are continuing to encourage pharmacy contractors, if they have not already done so, to make arrangements as soon as possible to upgrade their systems to operate EPS Release 1. Guidance is available on the PSNC Website ([www.psn.org.uk/etp](http://www.psn.org.uk/etp)) or in the PSNC Contract Workbook 2007-2008.

## **MURs**

The committee noted that the new style MUR form will be released soon and will be used as a re-launch for the service in general.

### **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.

### **For further information contact:**

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