

# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



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20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## PSNC Meeting March 2007

PSNC met on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 with its subcommittees meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### Galbraith Review

PSNC met again with Anne Galbraith on 7<sup>th</sup> March as the initial consultation period closed. PSNC had met with the review team at the start of the consultation and submitted its views on changes that could be made to improve the operation of the current arrangements and the ability of PCTs to plan services. The review is to report by the end of March, following which there will be a formal consultation, which PSNC expects could commence in the late spring or summer. The terms of reference for the review suggest that it could extend beyond entry control mechanisms to include the national contract framework. PSNC has made clear the need for a national framework, which is helpful for both patients and pharmacies.

### OFT market study of PPRS

The PSNC Funding and Contract subcommittee discussed the recommendations of the OFT report into the PPRS, which governs pricing of proprietary products, published on 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Department of Health has 120 days to respond to the study and the Committee hopes they will move quickly to implement the recommendations on branded generics. The OFT recommends that standard generics for which there is a bioequivalent generic supply subject to Category M pricing, should be reimbursed at the Cat M generic price. This reflects PSNC's initial comments on earlier branded generics consultations.

### Appliance Consultations

The PSNC Funding and Contract subcommittee considered the current consultations on the supply of appliances and associated services. The Committee will press for the removal of all stoma and incontinence products from the discount deduction arrangements, so community pharmacies have a level playing field with appliance contractors. The PSNC agreed the basis of the responses to the two consultations and these will be posted on the PSNC website.

### MURs

PSNC is delighted with the continuing rise in the number of MURs undertaken by pharmacists. The PSNC LPC and Implementation Support subcommittee reviewed the latest statistics and trends on a PCT by PCT basis and considered

what could be provided to help those contractors yet to start as well as encouraging those already providing the service.

PSNC agreed that those contractors yet to start MURs will be targeted with advice and support to focus them on doing MURs on patients in a specific disease area such as diabetes or asthma as this has been found to be valuable. For patients there will be material targeted at particular patient groups such as asthmatics and diabetics encouraging them to seek an MUR. These materials will also be useful for contractors already providing MURs.

The subcommittee also discussed how LPCs could mediate in situations where a PCT has concerns about the quality of an MUR carried out by a contractor; it agreed that a local protocol should be developed and promoted under which if a PCT has an issue with an MUR it contacts the LPC which then takes up the matter with the contractor concerned.

Circulated at the meeting a draft advertisement for LPCs to use in the local press to promote MURs. The final advertisement will be sent to LPCs shortly

### **MUR Form**

The PSNC Service Development subcommittee discussed the responses to the current review of the MUR form. 160 replies had been received. The form will be changed in the light of the comments and the new form piloted before the final version is released.

**- ENDS -**

If you have any queries regarding this report please contact Mike King [mike.king@psnc.org.uk](mailto:mike.king@psnc.org.uk) 01296 438405.