

# PRESS RELEASE



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PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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## **PSNC statement on GPs' out of hours services (response to BBC News online article, 10/9/07)**

Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC, said:

"Expert healthcare is available in the community when GP surgeries are closed. Thousands of community pharmacies routinely open on Saturdays, providing patients and the public with access to expert healthcare advice, medicines and information. Many are also open for extended hours on weekdays, and on Sundays and public holidays. Pharmacists ensure that there is access to professional healthcare advice and medicines at times when other professionals may not be available. They are able to help with the majority of minor ailments and conditions, and they can provide advice on the best course of action to take when a condition cannot be treated within the pharmacy.

The government needs to take proper account of community pharmacy in its plans to solve the out-of-hours problems in primary care."

**-- ENDS --**

### **Notes for editors:**

1. Original BBC article can be found at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6986744.stm>
2. 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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