

# PRESS RELEASE

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PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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## **Survey of Professional Executive Committee (PEC) Pharmacists**

With the transitional period for the new PCTs nearly over, and the focus on practice based commissioning, it is more important than ever that community pharmacy is represented on PCT PECs, as one of the PEC's key roles is to facilitate and drive forward practice based commissioning, linking it into broader PCT strategy and identifying gaps in service provision.

With over two thirds of PCTs appointing PEC pharmacists before reconfiguration, PSNC has been concerned about the retention both of community pharmacists as PEC members and also the expertise gained by pharmacists as PEC members. Over the summer months, PSNC has carried out a survey of LPCs to identify PEC pharmacists.

Selection is still ongoing, but PSNC is pleased to report that there are currently over 50% of PECs with community pharmacists in place. Of the 152 PCTs, 79 permanent or currently interim PECs have community pharmacist members, 41 PCTs do not have a pharmacist on their PEC, and 32 PCTs are in the process of selection.

From the results obtained up to last week, many of the community pharmacists appointed to the PEC before reconfiguration have been reselected. Some who decided not to re-stand have been replaced by new members and there are only a few areas (17 LPCs) who have no PEC pharmacists within their area.

The selection process to permanent placement, which is due to be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>, has also been followed and, from the results obtained, it appears that the process will not be completed by the deadline. There is also some discussion taking place in a few PCTs to combine the PEC function across several PCTs which will reduce numbers of PEC members further.

Barbara Parsons, Head of Pharmacy Practice said:

"PSNC has continually promoted the inclusion of community pharmacists on PECs and we will continue to monitor the situation and support pharmacists going through the selection process. With a 98% response rate, the survey is

comprehensive, and we are really pleased with the number of community pharmacists on PECs, especially against the backdrop of reduced PCT numbers and PEC places. We would like to congratulate all PEC pharmacists on their appointment.”

**-- 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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