

PRESS RELEASE



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PSNC COMMENTS ON DH's ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW NATIONAL STOMA AND INCONTINENCE SUPPLY SERVICES

Following the DH's announcement regarding new national services linked to the supply of stoma and incontinence appliances, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe commented:

"During the Department of Health's long running review, PSNC worked to ensure that pharmacies could fairly compete with dispensing appliance contractors to deliver services to patients using stoma or incontinence products.

"We are pleased that the Department of Health have recognised that pharmacists have a key role to play in supporting patients using stoma or incontinence appliances. These patients are often amongst the most vulnerable. The new arrangements, in particular the new Appliance Use Review (AUR) service, will support patient access to high quality advice on the use of these appliances as well as improved continuity of care.

"It is very helpful that the Department have taken on board our concerns about the need to provide sufficient notice of changes to allow time to plan for implementation. PSNC will be meeting with Department of Health officials shortly to discuss the detail of the arrangements including support for implementation. There are a number of detailed issues still to be confirmed. Further guidance will be available in due course.

"Currently, pharmacies already offer some of the services under agreements with dispensing appliance contractors - for example, stoma product customisation. Pharmacies will need to consider whether and how these services will be delivered in future, for example "skilling up" pharmacy staff where required or sub-contracting the service to another provider."

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Notes to Editors

1. The DH recently finalised its long-running review of both the reimbursement prices and arrangements for the supply of stoma and incontinence products listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff. New National NHS Services linked to Stoma and Incontinence Products will be introduced in 2010.

2. A summary of the key changes can be found at http://www.psnco.org.uk/news.php/462/new_national_nhs_services_linked_to_stoma_and_incontinence_products_to_be_introduced_in_2010
3. Appliance Use Reviews (AURs) are intended to complement the care provided by healthcare professionals working in the NHS and such reviews must be conducted by the pharmacist or a specialist nurse working on behalf of the pharmacy contractor that dispensed the appliance.

*For further information please contact the PSNC press office
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