

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **PSNC RESPONDS TO CQC REPORT 'MANAGING PATIENTS' MEDICATION AFTER DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL'**

**Embargoed until: 00:01am Tuesday 27 October 2009**

Responding to the Care Quality Commission's Report '*Managing patients' medication after discharge from hospital*', PSNC Head of NHS Services Alastair Buxton said:

"After a spell in hospital, adapting to a complex course of medication can be a daunting experience. Patients in this situation need sustained support and guidance. As highly qualified and accessible health professionals, community pharmacists are ideally placed to help patients manage their medication.

"However, a number of obstacles hinder community pharmacists' efforts to provide patients with the best possible support. In many cases, hospital discharge information relating to medicines is dangerously inadequate. Even where discharge information is accurate, it is rare for this to be shared with the patient's community pharmacist. Pharmacists cannot tailor their service to a patient's needs if they are deprived of information on changes to a patient's medicines.

"Too often community pharmacists are forced to provide care in isolation. PCTs, LPCs and hospital pharmacists need to build integrated networks that support patients after their discharge from hospital. Primary and Secondary care providers must share information and work together to deliver the care patients need.

"Post-discharge Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) could make all the difference in supporting patients to effectively manage their new medicines regimen. However, without team work across primary and secondary care, this intervention will not be possible. PSNC has been discussing the use of targeted MURs with NHS Employers and DH, and in the coming months we anticipate changes to the service will be made which will support patients accessing this invaluable service after leaving hospital."

**~Ends~**

*For further information please contact the PSNC press office  
on 0207 618 9187 or at [psnc@luther.co.uk](mailto:psnc@luther.co.uk).*

**Notes to Editor**

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
2. The Care Quality Commission Report 'Managing patients' medicines after discharge from hospital' was published on 27 October 2009, and can be found on the CQC website: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/>