



1st April 2010

GP AND PHARMACIST GUIDES LAUNCHED

Today NHS Employers in partnership with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) of the British Medical Association launched two new guides designed to support General Practitioners (GPs) and community pharmacists in developing more effective working relationships.

The guides, 'The GP practice – a guide for community pharmacists and pharmacy staff' and 'The community pharmacy – a guide for general practitioners and practice staff,' cover information about each professions' respective disciplines to enable increased understanding and improve primary care services for the patient.

The guides include information on:

- funding arrangements
- the Quality and Outcomes (QOF) framework and prescribing policies
- the range of clinical and administrative functions that practices and community pharmacies provide.

The guides have been produced by the professional relationships working group that has been set up to improve professional relationships between GPs and community pharmacists, to benefit patients.

Felicity Cox, lead negotiator, NHS Employers said:

"In a time when the NHS is working hard to deliver efficiency savings across the service these guides provide a timely, straightforward insight to support the two medical groups to work better together. They are useful to commissioners as they help to highlight possibilities for new ways of integrated working in primary care."

Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive Officer, PSNC said:

"PSNC warmly welcomes the new GP and Community Pharmacy Guides. We have always believed that the best outcomes for NHS patients can only be achieved if all healthcare professionals collaborate and work together, and these guides will help to enhance understanding between GPs and pharmacists on the role that each profession plays in the NHS."

Dr Richard Vautrey, Deputy Chairman of the BMA's GPs Committee said:

"Good working relationships between GPs and community pharmacists are important for patient care. We hope GPs and pharmacists will find these guides useful."

~Ends~



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. NHS Employers represents trusts in England on workforce issues and helps to ensure that the NHS is a place where people want to work. See www.nhsemployers.org for more information.
3. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as the representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible NHS service opportunities, remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England. PSNC represents and promotes the interests of 10,500 pharmacy contractors (pharmacy owners) in England. It is the role of PSNC to liaise with the Department of Health and representatives of the NHS in England to negotiate the contractual terms for the provision of NHS community pharmacy services.
4. General practitioners are represented by a main UK-wide committee, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), plus three national committees, which work alongside it. The GPC is recognised by the health departments in national negotiations for NHS GPs and by the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body as representing all GPs
5. The professional relationships group is chaired by Felicity Cox, lead negotiator for NHS Employers community pharmacy team and its members include representatives from the GPC and the PSNC.

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