

## **PRESCRIPTION CLAIMS REPORTING STREAMLINED TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST ERRORS IN PRICING**

**01 April** - NHS Prescription Services is changing the way they ask contractors to sort prescriptions before they are sent for processing. The changes are being made to support improvement in accuracy and allow for increased attention to be paid to expensive and 'specials' items.

From April 2010 contractors will no longer be required to sort calendar pack items into the red separators. Instead contractors are required to separately sort prescription forms containing individual items with a net ingredient cost (NIC) of £100 or more and 'specials'. Prescription forms where a 'broken bulk' claim applies to one or more items on the form will still need to be sorted as currently.

These changes are designed to reduce errors in pricing via the CIP process and safeguard contractors' monthly payment.

Janet Edginton, Head of Pharmacy Audit at PSNC, said:

"This change to the sorting requirements will assist to improve pricing accuracy of high value items which have the largest impact on contractors' payments. We recognise that the sorting of items over £100 (one of the new requirements) will require additional pricing knowledge by pharmacy staff sorting the prescriptions; PSNC are committed in supporting staff in adapting to this transition, and are working to produce a list of commonly prescribed/dispensed items over £100 which should be available in the next few days.

"It is worth noting that within the next few months the schedule of payment that is issued by PPD to each pharmacy relating to the pricing of their dispensed prescriptions will be altered to include an itemised list per pharmacy of items priced over £100. This will be an ongoing feature of the Schedule of Payment and this will assist pharmacy staff in identifying items dispensed in their pharmacy with a value of over £100. In the meantime contractors should include items that they know are over £100 in the red separators and work to increase the number of these value items sorted as further information becomes available.

"Contractors seeking further information regarding the changed sorting arrangements should check the PSNC website, where further information will be posted as it becomes available".

~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.

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