

PSNC SECURES PROTECTION FOR PHARMACY FUNDING AS DH SAFEGUARDS GLOBAL SUM

16 March – PSNC has secured a commitment from Health Services Minister Mike O’Brien that global sum funding will be robustly protected once devolved to PCT level. Following the expression of serious concerns by PSNC, the Department of Health will introduce a set of measures designed to protect this funding for pharmacy contractors.

These measures will apply as from April 2010. They include a revised advance payment arrangement and the opportunity for contractors to claim compensation for any lost fees and allowances resulting from changes in the period of treatment.

Commenting on these protection measures, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

“We are delighted that our efforts to protect pharmacy funding once the global sum is devolved have paid off. The protective measures announced by Mike O’Brien yesterday at PSNC’s Community Pharmacy Conference will go a long way to ensuring pharmacy’s funding is secure for the next financial year. We have been working with the DH ever since the decision to devolve was announced, and have continued to raise our concerns with them. We are confident that these measures will ensure pharmacists continue to deliver the very best service to NHS patients. Any contractor whose income is significantly affected by increased prescribing duration will be able to claim compensatory payments. I am also pleased and encouraged that the Minister has announced that the Department, PSNC and NHSE will work to agree new and better funding arrangements for the future.”

“We will of course be providing full guidance to LPCs once arrangements with the DH have been finalized; however, contractors will need to be vigilant as only they can initiate a claim. We will be encouraging LPCs to receive and act on reports of any changes, to ensure all contractors likely to be affected are alerted in advance.”

~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. The decision to devolve the global sum to PCTs was announced in the summer of 2009.

For further information please contact the PSNC press office on **0207 618 9187** or at psnc@luther.co.uk.