

## **PSNC RESPONDS TO PUBLICATION OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE ON SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

**03 February 2011** - Responding to the Department of Health's publication of best practice guidance on supply chain management, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

"PSNC recognises that increased work in sourcing branded products has put an immense burden on community pharmacy, and that every hour spent sourcing medicines in short supply is an hour diverted away from the delivery of key NHS services. The situation has not improved.

"We welcome this guidance as a step in the right direction. Given that a collaborative approach will be crucial in addressing this issue, it is positive that this guidance has been agreed by all parts of the supply chain, including manufacturers. We are also pleased that the guidance explicitly recognises that requesting faxed prescriptions prior to supply is not acceptable routine practice.

"However, there is much still to be done if pharmacies are to be able to give confidence to patients who have experienced delays in sourcing the medicines they need. We will continue to do all we can to improve the situation, and will look to explore with the Department of Health how they might take enforcement action to ensure appropriate practice going forward."

~ ENDS ~

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Department of Health's best practice guidance is available to download here: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_124047.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_124047.pdf)
2. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
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.

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