



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**15 August 2008**

### **ONLINE VIDEO GUIDE TO NEW PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY**

A NEW video guide has been launched online to help pharmacists find out more about the new processing technology being used to pay them correctly.

The Prescription Processing Division (PPD) of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has worked with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) to publish a new video guide to the PPD's new processing technology.

Contractors will be taken through the pricing process, from the receipt of prescription batches at the PPD, to batch preparation, scanning, and the data capture mechanism. The video also explains the exception process, whereby PPD staff manually capture information from dispensing endorsements.

The guide can be viewed online at the PSNC website [www.psn.org.uk/CIP](http://www.psn.org.uk/CIP) or on the NHSBSA PPD site at [www.ppa.org.uk](http://www.ppa.org.uk)

Brian Alexander, Managing Director of PPD, said:

“It was important to both PSNC and ourselves to provide a way to help pharmacists to understand more about the new system and the benefits it will have for people. We hope that contractors find it an interesting and useful way to find out more about how it works for them.”

Commenting on the new system, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

“The video guide is an important tool that will help contractors to better understand the intricacies of the new system. It can be viewed in full or via selected clips enabling pharmacists to focus on the parts of most interest and use to them. Pharmacists will be able to go back to view the clips as often as they need to.

“We are delighted to have been able to work closely with the NHSBSA PPD and are grateful to NHSBSA PPD staff for actively participating and explaining their role in the new process.

“We strongly encourage contractors to go to either website and take advantage of this tool.”

The video will be available on both websites from 22nd August 2008.

**-Ends-**

### **Notes to Editors**

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
2. The NHSBSA PPD started to bring in the new processing technology in 2007. All pharmacy contractors prescriptions will be processed this way by the end of the year.
3. The new technology uses high-speed scanning equipment and intelligent character recognition software to automate the capture of printed information from prescription forms. The information captured by scanning is then processed by an automated 'rules engine' to determine the payment due to contractors.
4. The NHS Business Services Authority's Prescription Pricing Division processes over three million prescription items every working day, providing reimbursement and remuneration to pharmacy contractors in England, the provision of payment schedules covering dispensing doctors and personal administration by GPs in England and schedules for Jersey and Guernsey.
5. Annual payments to contractors made on behalf of the NHS now total around £8 billion.

For further information contact:

PSNC press office: 0207 618 9187, [psnc@luther.co.uk](mailto:psnc@luther.co.uk).

Fiona Punchard, Communications Manager, Prescription Pricing Division, NHS Business Services Authority 0191 203 5057, [fiona.punchard@ppa.nhs.uk](mailto:fiona.punchard@ppa.nhs.uk)