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## **PSNC RESPONDS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPENSING DOCTORS**

Commenting on the Government's announcement today that they will not change the current arrangements for dispensing doctors, Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC, said:

"PSNC's principal concern throughout has been to develop the pharmacy service as proposed in the Pharmacy White Paper, while continuing to foster productive collaboration between GPs and pharmacists.

"We were not surprised by the Government's announcement today that they have decided not to change the arrangements for dispensing doctors. Dispensing doctors have argued in defence of the arrangements agreed between our two professions eight years ago. We have made it clear that we support the status quo. We acknowledge that dispensing by doctors remains necessary for some patients in rural areas for whom a pharmacy is not readily accessible - as we agreed back in 2000.

"Having said this, we also remain of the view that, wherever possible, the public should be able to receive their NHS prescription medicines from their local pharmacy. While this may not be viable in remote rural areas, the vast majority of the public do enjoy ready access to a pharmacy. Community pharmacies provide a wide and growing range of clinical health services alongside dispensing prescriptions, including diabetes and cholesterol checks, Medicine Use Reviews to check that patients are taking their medicines correctly and safely, plus advice on leading healthier lifestyles, for example, stopping smoking or eating more healthily.

"Healthcare professionals need to continue to work collaboratively in order to ensure we provide the very best health service which the British public rightly expects of us."

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