



Press release

14th January 2008

The Company Chemists Association (CCA), Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and National Pharmacy Association (NPA) joined forces to respond to the Departments of Health's call for policy ideas on how to drive innovation in the NHS. Their joint response, published today, called on the NHS to address the barriers that are holding providers, including community pharmacies, back from innovating. The barriers identified are:

- Lack of access to data to help providers to quantify the investment opportunity service redesign represents;
- Lack of future certainty around commissioning and contracting, making investment decisions risky;
- The persistence of an uneven playing field between providers, including within practice based commissioning (PBC);
- The lack of incentives to foster collaboration between existing and new providers.

The three bodies propose a number of policies that they believe will help address these barriers and ensure that innovation happens more within pharmacy and the wider NHS, and creates sustainable services. Full details of these policies are given in the consultation response, which is attached.

Commenting on this consultation, Georgina Craig, Commissioning Policy Lead at The CCA said:

"We welcome the Department's focus on driving innovation; it can only be a good thing for community pharmacy. Commissioning pharmacy services is an innovation in itself. We may be existing providers, but in the context of many of the services we aspire to provide, we are new market entrants."

Alastair Buxton Head of NHS Services at the PSNC added:

"Over the last year community pharmacies have proposed many local service innovations in priority areas such as obesity management, but the current commissioning environment has frequently acted as a block to progress. We hope our proposals will spur the NHS to make system changes that will facilitate local innovation for the benefit of patients."

Stephen Fishwick, Head of External Communications at the NPA said:

"Pharmacy can be part of creative solutions to longstanding challenges within the NHS. For pharmacists to participate more fully in service redesign, they need to be sure that their ideas and enthusiasm will not be thwarted by system barriers. Investment in innovative services must have a reasonable prospect of achieving a return."

-ENDS-

Editors notes

For more information about this release or the consultation response, contact Georgina Craig on the mobile below.

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