

# PRESS RELEASE

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PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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**07 March 2008**

## **PSNC Publishes Guidance on the NHSBSA Capacity Improvement Programme**

PSNC has published detailed guidance for contractors on the NHSBSA Capacity Improvement Programme (CIP) which includes an overview of the programme and a summary of the support available on known implementation issues.

Implementation of the new system began in March 2007, applied to prescriptions from a limited number of pharmacies. Both the NHSBSA PPD and the PSNC have been scrutinising the system closely. The programme has meant a fundamental change in the way that prescriptions are processed by the NHSBSA PPD and with all changes of this size, initial teething problems were to be expected. Both PSNC and the NHSBSA PPD have been working to ensure that all implementation issues are identified and addressed.

Sue Sharpe, PSNC Chief Executive said:

"Timely and accurate pricing of prescriptions is vital for contractors and it is a major priority for PSNC to ensure that we validate all elements of the CIP system. Our job is to ensure that there is no detriment to contractors.

"A specific issue with the transfer to CIP has been the new prescription sorting requirements. This was not initially envisaged as part of the system, but to ensure correct payment, it is essential that contractors do sort their prescriptions as requested by the PPD. PSNC is working to ensure that all additional costs to contractors are fully met.

"In addition to this, there have been particular problems with the switching of prescriptions from exempt to charge paid status. In many cases this appears to be attributable to increased accuracy in identifying prescriptions that have been incorrectly sorted, however in other cases, there has been erroneous switching. We have agreed a process with the Department of Health and the PPD under which contractors can request review where they believe there have been errors. Information provided to the NHSBSA PPD will be used to support an assessment of the number of errors that may have been made in transferring items between the exempt and chargeable groups during the prescription pricing process and will be used to support negotiations on the arrangements for compensating contractors for errors that have been made."

**-- ENDS --**

**Notes for editors:**

1. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is the body that represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to secure the best possible NHS services provided by pharmacy contractors in England and Wales.
2. Guidance on the NHSBSA Capacity Improvement programme can be found on the PSNC Website ([www.psn.org.uk/cip](http://www.psn.org.uk/cip)). Alternatively, pharmacy staff can contact the PSNC Information Team for support (01296 432823).

**For further information contact:**

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