

## PRESS RELEASE



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**3 November 2008**

### **CIP Implementation Issues: Progress Update Published**

PSNC have published a detailed update on progress by the NHSBSA PPD in resolving issues linked to the implementation of the PPD's new prescription pricing technology, commonly referred to as CIP (the Capacity Improvement Programme).

The update has been included in this month's issue of PSNC Community Pharmacy News, which will arrive in pharmacies in early November and can be found on the PSNC Website at [www.psn.org.uk/CIP](http://www.psn.org.uk/CIP).

Commenting on progress, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

"Significant progress has been made by the NHSBSA PPD in the development of a tool to identify contractors who may have been affected by significant pricing errors to date. PSNC is taking expert advice on the tool. Subject to this advice, the tool will be applied to review contractor accounts as soon as possible.

"PSNC is working to ensure that contractors are fairly compensated for errors that may have been made by the NHSBSA PPD in prescription pricing. We are making a claim to the Department of Health for an interest component where payments have been owed for prolonged periods."

Brian Alexander, PPD Managing Director commented:

"The PPD continually monitors and reports the accuracy of its pricing systems and regularly assesses the performance of staff. We will continue to work with the PSNC to improve the average processing accuracy and increase the consistency with which we process accounts to reduce the risk of errors occurring that would have a significant impact on any individual account.

"The analysis tool that we have developed will help us to identify potential pricing problems and to intervene in the process before payment is made."

**-Ends-**

#### **Notes to Editors**

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

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.

2. The Capacity Improvement Programme (CIP) was introduced by the Prescription Pricing Division in early 2007 and uses high-speed scanning equipment and intelligent character recognition software to support the capture of printed information from prescription forms. This supplements the input of information manually by PPD operatives and once information is captured it is processed by an automated 'rules engine' to determine the payment due to contractors.

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