

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **PSNC responds to Patient Association report on community pharmacy**

Commenting on the release of The Patients' Association's Pharmacy Report, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

"It is encouraging to see that the majority of respondents would be happy to visit their local pharmacist to help with the routine monitoring of conditions such as cholesterol and diabetes. The Government's recent White Paper on Pharmacy has recognised the potential of community pharmacy, and pharmacists are already offering some of the new services highlighted in it.

"As we take on this increased responsibility, all community pharmacists will need to ensure that patients receive the high levels of service and care they rightly expect and need from the NHS.

"There is much work for PSNC and pharmacy contractors to do if we are to maximise our contribution but we are making progress and I am confident that pharmacists will rise to the challenge. We need other healthcare professionals to help facilitate these developments – we particularly need to ensure we have good working relationships locally as well as nationally with GPs, so that patients receive the best from both professions. We also need PCTs to support these developments. They need to focus on community pharmacy in their commissioning, rather than overlook it as some do, and they need to help us ensure the public are aware of the changing role of the modern community pharmacy.

"The Patients Association has flagged up many of the gains that community pharmacy is bringing, and can continue to bring, to primary care. They have also set out some of the challenges. We are dedicated to working together with the NHS and other health professions to realise those gains for patients and the public."

**-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.

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