

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

59 Buckingham Street
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 2PJ
Telephone (01296) 432823
Fax 01296 438427
www.psn.org.uk

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Pharmacy negotiators welcome White Paper

PSNC, the national negotiating body representing community pharmacies in England and Wales, supports the Pharmacy White paper published today.

Commenting on the White Paper, Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC, said,

"I am delighted that the White Paper proposes implementation of a wide range of community pharmacy based services that will offer people easy access to help them stay healthy, and extend the part community pharmacists play in the care of people with acute and long term conditions.

"Over recent years pharmacists have worked hard to develop their skills and have invested in their premises in order to provide more services to their communities such as managing long-term conditions like asthma, health checks for vascular disease and weight management.

"We will ensure that the quality of these and new services continue to meet the high standard our patients expect and deserve.

"The White Paper builds on the current NHS contractual framework, identifying the barriers to developing our role and proposing practical and constructive measures for tackling them. It includes many innovative proposals and PSNC will look forward to working with the government, NHS Employers and others to deliver the benefits we can bring to the NHS as soon as possible. This is a really positive White Paper for community pharmacy and patients."

- ENDS -

Notes for editors:

1. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible NHS service opportunities, remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England and Wales. Much of the PSNC's work involves discussions and negotiations with the Department of Health.
2. There are 11,000 community pharmacies in England and Wales, which are located where people live, shop and work and provide an accessible source of healthcare advice and information. Research has shown that the majority of the public have a high level of trust in their community pharmacist and that their pharmacy is the most convenient place to receive health care advice.

For further information contact:

Alastair Buxton at PSNC, 59 Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 2PJ, e-mail: alastair.buxton@psnc.org.uk - office: 01296 438425, mobile: 07773 564748. www.psn.org.uk