

## PRESS RELEASE



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### PSNC CONSIDERS THE DH'S CONTROL OF ENTRY CONSULTATION PAPER

PSNC considered the Department of Health's consultation paper at its monthly meeting on 7 – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The Committee considered it to be one of the most significant consultations on control of entry for pharmacy since the regime was introduced in 1987.

Following PSNC's discussions, Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

“Control of entry, potential market exit and rewarding providers of high quality pharmacy services are all inter-related. Processes for all these must therefore be based on objective transparent criteria.

“Although decisions will be based upon patient needs, we will be requesting that pharmacy contractors and their LPCs are involved in developing local plans to ensure that all angles are taken into account in decision-making.

“The proposal to introduce supplementary lists was expected, and we will be seeking to work with the Department of Health to ensure that the arrangements avoid duplication. We will also strive to ensure that arrangements are consistent with similar provisions for other NHS healthcare professionals and that don't involve unnecessary bureaucracy.”

A draft consultation response will now be prepared and considered by the Committee.

**-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.
2. The current control of entry test is inconsistent with the direction of NHS reforms under which PCTs have more responsibility to secure effective commissioning of adequate services to address local priorities.
3. If PCTs are to be held accountable for delivering pharmacy's contribution to health improvement, they must have means by which they are able to determine from whom,

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when and where quality services are provided - PCTs need to have proportionate and adequate powers to commission according to local needs and govern their financial liabilities and commitments.

4. Government aspirations are for a new legislative basis to achieve a better balance between the needs of PCTs as commissioners and the certainty for pharmaceutical services providers who want to invest to provide services. The legislation should not inhibit, and should encourage where possible, stronger relationships between commissioner and contractor as well as stimulating competition and innovation. The government wants to provide a more objective basis than the current test for determining whether or not the NHS will agree to commission new providers or existing providers who wish to expand service provision.

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