

# PHARMABASE Update

[www.pharmabase.org.uk](http://www.pharmabase.org.uk)

Issue 1 February 2012

Welcome to the first issue of *PharmaBase Update* - a new regular publication intended to keep pharmacy contractors and their staff up to date with the development of PharmaBase.

In this edition we provide a reminder of why PharmaBase was developed, describe the developments which will be made to PharmaBase over the next three months and explain how you can suggest ways to improve and develop the platform.

## Why is PharmaBase needed?

The Government's White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS* is clear that all healthcare providers must be able to demonstrate their value to the new NHS; failure to do so will result in services being decommissioned.

Against this policy background, PSNC decided to examine how it could best support delivery of pharmacy services and the collation of data at a national level that could be used to develop an evidence base for different services. The conclusion of this review was a decision to develop PharmaBase - a web based pharmacy services platform.

## What is the aim of PharmaBase?

**To provide a national IT platform to support the efficient commissioning, delivery and invoicing of pharmacy services.**

Our aim is to provide pharmacy contractors with a system that works for independents and chains alike. PharmaBase supports the efficient recording, reporting and invoicing of a range of services and enables local and national level analysis and reporting on the effectiveness of commissioned services.

PharmaBase allows pharmacy to control its own data and develop support for service delivery that meets the immediate needs of pharmacy and commissioners. Alongside this it provides a source of data to demonstrate service outcomes in order to protect existing services and develop new opportunities in the future.

We aim to make it easy for future service commissioners to commission and administer pharmacy services, so that community pharmacy becomes the first choice when they want to deliver a new service in primary care.

PharmaBase is operated by Health Information Exchange Ltd (HIE), which is a limited company whose shares are held in trust for PSNC. The creation of HIE and the development of PharmaBase has been undertaken by PSNC for NHS pharmacy contractors, and net revenues will only be used for contractors' benefit.

## What you can do in PharmaBase

PharmaBase lets you:

- Manage the provision of the New Medicine Service (NMS) in your pharmacy and contribute to developing the evidence base for this service (see overleaf)
- Track and record your compliance with NHS pharmacy contract requirements (the PSNC Contract Workbook)
- Complete a pre-visit questionnaire before your PCT's contract monitoring visit (Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework)
- Record local Enhanced service Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) consultations and submit claims for payment to your service commissioner (where your service commissioner has agreed to use PharmaBase)
- Make records of local Enhanced service supervised consumptions and submit claims for payment to your service commissioner (where your service commissioner has agreed to use PharmaBase)

## The NMS module

With the first few months of provision of the NMS under community pharmacy's belt, our challenge is to prove the outcomes and benefits for patients, so that the service continues, and expands, after March 2013 (NMS is currently only commissioned until the end of March 2013).

That is why we have developed the PharmaBase NMS module: to help pharmacies provide the service in an efficient manner and document and report on the outcomes.

The PharmaBase module is simple to use, and incorporates a 'dashboard' so you can track your progress with the service during the month, and a diary and reminder section to help you incorporate NMS into your busy work schedule.

The module will also prepare for you the quarterly report which must be submitted to the PCT (if requested). It should be noted that your PCT has no authority to mandate that any particular recording system is used for the NMS.

PharmaBase has been set up by community pharmacy, for the benefit of community pharmacy. We have been able to develop the PharmaBase platform at a very low cost for the benefit of all contractors, and we urge you to help PSNC and your fellow contractors by ensuring that all your NMS service provision is recorded in PharmaBase.

The data that is entered into PharmaBase will be collated



nationally and anonymised information will be used to help PSNC prove to the Department of Health and in future the NHS Commissioning Board, the value of the services provided by community pharmacy. This could help secure long term funding for this, and other services provided by community pharmacy. We will work to ensure that it is as user friendly as possible, and in the coming weeks we will use your feedback to make enhancements to the module (see below).

Some PMR system suppliers have developed NMS modules in their PMR product; where PMR system suppliers agree to provide your NMS data free of charge to PharmaBase, you can use either your PMR system or PharmaBase to manage the provision of the NMS and still be assured that the data you generate can be used as part of the evidence base.

It is critically important for all pharmacies to be able to share their NMS data with PharmaBase so it can be nationally collated.

## PharmaBase developments over the next quarter

Updates to PharmaBase are implemented on a monthly basis. Some enhancements are simply to fix minor bugs in the system that pharmacies have reported to us, but a number of more substantive changes will occur over the next three months including:

**Changes to the NMS module** - in January the NMS module was updated to check when a new NMS record is created whether it may be a duplicate record of one that has already been entered.

In the February update we will add functionality to allow deletion of NMS records that have been incorrectly made (e.g. duplicate records) and an option to modify the date of registration, intervention and follow up where the record is being made retrospectively.

In March the ability to edit the demographic data of NMS patients will be added.

**Needle & Syringe Programme (NSP) module** - in February an NSP module will be launched to record 'needle exchange' transactions provided by pharmacies as part of a locally commissioned service. This will complement the existing supervised consumption service module.

**Stop smoking and NRT modules** - in March we plan to launch modules to support the provision of locally commissioned NHS stop smoking services and the provision of NRT via voucher.

**End of month declaration module** - in March we plan to launch a generic module which can be used by PCTs to collect, on a monthly basis, specific data from pharmacies related to local services.

**PSNC Contract Workbook/Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework module** - in April we plan to launch an updated Contract Workbook module which will match the changes to the pharmacy contractual framework which have to be implemented by April 2012.

## Interfacing with PMR systems

From the start of development of PharmaBase, we have been keen to work with the providers of PMR systems in order to explore the opportunities for pharmacy contractors' PMR data, related to services such as the NMS, to be shared with PharmaBase. This is in order to ensure that the maximum amount of information on pharmacy services is collated via PharmaBase to support the development of the all important evidence base for pharmacy services.

We have had constructive discussions with PMR providers and are continuing to work with them in order to agree a way to allow pharmacy contractors' NMS data in PMR systems to be shared with PharmaBase, thus removing the need to manually

enter data in both systems or the risk that the data is not available to inform the development of the evidence base for the service.

## How do I...?

If you are new to using PharmaBase you will find background information on the platform, Quick Start guides and FAQs at: [www.psn.org.uk/pharmabase](http://www.psn.org.uk/pharmabase).

We will be adding a range of short 'How to' guides to the website over the next few weeks.

## Consolidated data for head offices

If you are a multiple pharmacy contractor using PharmaBase we can provide you with a portal website to access consolidated information on your pharmacies' PharmaBase data. For example you can access weekly and monthly reports on NMS activity in your pharmacies.

Please contact the PSNC information team for more information on how to access this information for your pharmacy group.

## Experiencing a problem or need advice?

For more information on PharmaBase, advice on how to use it and Quick Start guides, visit [www.psn.org.uk/pharmabase](http://www.psn.org.uk/pharmabase).

If you have any ideas on how we can develop PharmaBase, send your feedback to

[pharmabase.feedback@psnc.org.uk](mailto:pharmabase.feedback@psnc.org.uk)

or speak to the PSNC information team on **0844 381 4180 (option 1)**.

If you are experiencing a *technical problem* with PharmaBase please contact the helpdesk on **01675 436572**.

If you need *advice on using PharmaBase* call the PSNC information team on **0844 381 4180 (option 1)**.

