

NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework - 2011/12 Service Developments - Update

16 June 2011

On 11 May 2011 NHS Employers and PSNC published details of the changes to the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). This update provides further details of the changes, responds to frequently asked questions and outlines the current implementation work programme.

We are discussing the changes with a wide range of stakeholders at an event on 16 June where we hope to get input into some of the decisions we need to make about the New Medicine Service and targeted Medicines Use Reviews.

The New Medicine Service

Work programme - update and future actions

We are progressing the implementation of the New Medicine Service (NMS). In particular:

- we have met with a group of people (including pharmacists, academics and other experts) to discuss the knowledge and skills pharmacists require to deliver the NMS processes and outcomes. This group is developing a self assessment tool that pharmacists will use to assure themselves that they are able to demonstrate the required skills
- this group will also develop a semi-structured interview template that pharmacists will be able to use when delivering the service
- we have asked CPPE to facilitate the development of learning materials to support the implementation of the NMS and they have started to progress this work
- we have had a number of meetings with representatives of the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) to discuss the implementation of the NMS. We are working with the GPC to develop a standard referral NMS form that will be sent from the pharmacist to the GP where this is necessary and to develop guidance for GPs about the new service. It will be important for community pharmacists to discuss the new service with other local healthcare providers before it is delivered
- we are working with the Department of Health and the NHS Business Services Authority to ensure that the pricing structure can be implemented and this work is progressing well
- we are establishing a process to define the NMS disease areas. We will publish the outcomes of this work when they are available
- colleagues from the Department of Health have started to develop the Directions which will provide the legislative framework for the service
- we have had further discussions with the Department of Health and NHS Protect about patient consent arrangements. We will publish detailed guidance on this issue

- we have started to consider evaluation of the service to inform future discussions
- we have started to develop detailed guidance for contractors and commissioners about the service as well as patient information materials.

Targeted Medicines Use Reviews

In May we announced that we would introduce three national target groups: patients taking high risk medicines, patients recently discharged from hospital who had changes made to their medicines while they were in hospital and patients with respiratory disease. We said that we would also identify further national target groups.

We have now decided to focus on the three agreed national target groups for initial implementation. On this basis we will review the requirement that at least 70% of all MURs undertaken by each pharmacy in each year should be on patients within the national target groups. We will agree the exact percentage figure once further details about the three national target groups are available and in particular once the list of high risk medicines has been defined.

Work programme - update and future actions

We are progressing the implementation of targeted MURs. In particular:

- we have convened a Respiratory Advisory Group to advise us about respiratory MURs including outcome measures. We will separately define outcome measures for the other target MURs
- we are progressing the development of the list of high risk drugs. This work is being chaired by Martin Stephens, the National Clinical Director for hospital pharmacy
- we have been exploring how patients recently discharged from hospital might be identified by community pharmacists. We will publish guidance on this issue
- colleagues from the Department of Health have started to progress work to update the Directions
- we have had further discussions with the Department of Health and NHS Protect about patient consent arrangements. We will publish detailed guidance on this issue
- we will produce detailed guidance for contractors, GPs and commissioners about targeted MURs as well as patient information materials.

Frequently asked questions

Question: My patient falls within two or more of the national target groups. Does this mean that they are eligible for more than one MUR?

Answer: No. The target groups should be used to select which patients would be eligible for an MUR. Once a patient is eligible for an MUR then that should cover all of the medicines that they are taking.

Clinical governance changes

Work programme - update and future actions

We are progressing the implementation of the clinical governance changes. In particular:

- colleagues from the Department of Health have started to progress work to update the Regulations
- we will produce detailed guidance for contractors and commissioners about the changes to the clinical governance requirements.

What can commissioners do now?

- Make sure you are aware of the changes to the contractual framework; initial details were published on NHS Employers' website.
- Keep up to date on the programme to implement the changes. As the final details for the service changes are agreed they will be published on the NHS Employers website (www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/CommunityPharmacyContract/Pages/PCC-CommunityPharmacyContractualArrangements.aspx).
- Discuss the changes with your LPC and local contractors and:
 - find out which of them might be interested in delivering the New Medicines Service
 - start to explore ways that community pharmacies may be able to identify patients in the national target groups.

What can contractors do now?

- Make sure you are aware of the changes to the contractual framework; initial details were published in the May 2011 edition of PSNC's Community Pharmacy News.
- Keep up to date on the programme to implement the changes. As the final details of the service changes are agreed they will be published on the PSNC website (www.psn.org.uk/contract).
- Develop a plan on how you are going to implement the changes in your pharmacy; try to make time to consider whether you need to change some of the systems in place within your business.
- Brief your team on the changes and start to engage them in the implementation of the changes.
- Talk to your local GPs and practice nurses about the changes to the contract, particularly NMS and targeted MURs.