



14 December 2007

To: **All PCT and Primary Care Pharmacists
in England**

Dear colleague

The new MUR form and changes to the Secretary of State Directions

I am pleased to be able to announce that today we are publishing, with DH, the Version 2 MUR form. The publication of this form is accompanied by changes to the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2005; these Direction amendments have now been issued and consequently the Version 2 form is now formally recognised by the Secretary of State and pharmacy contractors can start to use it.

There are also a number of other changes in the Direction amendments which provide new flexibilities for contractors in relation to communicating with GPs; these are detailed in the summary overleaf.

Spreading the word...

I have written to LPCs today to inform them of the announcement and to ask that they disseminate the information to their pharmacy contractors; PSNC will also distribute the information to pharmacy contractors via Community Pharmacy News. I have also suggested that LPCs should also communicate with local GPs, potentially working with the LMC and the PCT. I would be very grateful if you are able to provide any support in communicating these changes to pharmacy contractors and particularly to GPs and their practice teams. We have issued LPCs with a basic briefing note that can be used to communicate with GPs; this may be amended at a local level.

'MUR basics'

Recent research by Keele University and Webstar Health for the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust has suggested that many pharmacists are still confused about what an MUR is intended to be. Consequently the information on the new form aimed at pharmacy contractors includes a reminder of the 'MUR basics' in an attempt to reinforce the message that MURs are about the USE of medicines. PSNC hopes that the launch of the new form can be used as an opportunity to remind pharmacists of this key message. I would be grateful if you could include this message in any communications you have with your pharmacy contractors.

The new form and associated briefings will be posted on our website today at www.psn.org.uk/mur.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Buxton
Head of NHS Services

THE NEW NHS MUR FORM

During 2006/07 PSNC and the Department of Health conducted a review of the NHS MUR form. The aim of the review was to streamline the NHS MUR form in order to make it more user friendly for pharmacists, GPs and patients. The review was informed by feedback from pharmacists, GPs, LPCs, PCTs and other stakeholders. A stakeholder engagement event was held, followed by a consultation on the proposed new form and then a period of testing by practising pharmacists.

The new NHS MUR form (version 2) has now been approved and pharmacy contractors can start to use the form from 14 December 2007. The original version 1 form can continue to be used by pharmacy contractors until 30th September 2008.

What changes have been made?

The version 2 form has been reduced down to two A4 sheets and the key details, including the Action Plan, required by the patient's GP/Practice are all present on the first page - the *Overview page*. Further details of the changes made to the form are detailed at www.psn.org.uk/mur.

Communicating with the patient

The pharmacy contractor will always provide a copy of the full MUR form to the patient, i.e. both pages of the version 2 form.

Communicating with the GP/Practice

Pharmacy contractors are required by the Secretary of State Directions to communicate with the patient's GP following an MUR. The amendments to the Secretary of State Directions provide new flexibilities in relation to communicating with GPs **when using the new version 2 form**:

a) When there are items within the Action Plan that need to be considered by the GP/Practice pharmacy contractors are required to send the *Overview page* of the form to the patient's GP.

The pharmacist should make a professional judgement as to whether it is necessary to provide the GP/Practice with the *Consultation record* page of the form. If the *Consultation record* page is not sent to the patient's GP at the time of sending the *Overview page*, then the GP will be able to request a copy of it, from the pharmacy should they require this.

b) When there are no items within the Action Plan that need to be considered by the GP/Practice then a completed copy of the version 2 MUR form need not be sent to the GP. In this circumstance the pharmacy contractor should notify the patient's GP that an MUR has been undertaken, without any matters for consideration by the GP, within a month of the MUR being conducted. The notification should indicate that the GP can request copies of the completed MUR form(s) from the pharmacy. A template notification form can be found at www.psn.org.uk/mur (and Appendix 1 of this document).

N.B. When copies of the old form (version 1) are being used, the original requirement to send a copy of the full form (i.e. all 4 pages) to the GP on all occasions still applies.

Format of triplicate MUR form pads

Feedback on the MUR form triplicate pads used by some pharmacists suggests that certain colours of paper prevent the forms being scanned into GP systems.

Additionally the use of different colours for the 'GP copy' by different providers of the triplicate pads reduces the ability of GP Practice staff to recognise the forms; there have been instances of the forms being mixed up with MAR chart re-order sheets.

Feedback suggests that a white copy of the form sent to GP Practices reduces scanning difficulties, as would the use of black ink when pharmacists complete the forms.

Where can I get the new version of the NHS MUR form?

The new version of the MUR form can be downloaded from the PSNC website: www.psn.org.uk/mur. A photocopy template will be printed in the January 2008 edition of PSNC Community Pharmacy News. Organisations that have previously provided pads of triplicate MUR forms are in the process of updating their supplies.

Will the pharmacy system suppliers update their integrated MUR forms within PMR systems?

The pharmacy software suppliers have indicated their intention to update their PMR systems to include the new form as quickly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

www.psn.org.uk/mur