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working on behalf of the 

15th March 2011

Dear colleague

NHS Employers and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee are pleased to announce a number of services developments within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework. These have been the subject of negotiation and have now been agreed by the Department of Health. They will be implemented during 2011/12.

The changes comprise three key elements:

- the introduction of a **New Medicine Service** (NMS) for people with long-term conditions newly prescribed a medicine to help improve medicines adherence. The NMS will be an advanced service and will initially be focused on particular patient groups and conditions. This is supported by a maximum investment of £55 million per annum in 2011/12 and 2012/13
- the introduction of **national target patient groups for Medicines Use Reviews** (MURs) to ensure MURs are provided to those who will benefit the most. To bolster the effectiveness of MURs we will introduce outcome measures for each target group and measures which will improve post-payment monitoring. These changes will ensure that MURs are delivered to a high quality, and provide greater value for money and benefit to patients
- **changes to clinical governance requirements** to strengthen and build upon the existing clinical governance regime.

These changes deliver on the Government's priorities for health as outlined in "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS". We believe that our agreement will lead to improved health outcomes for patients, support better utilisation of community pharmacy expertise and resources, and provide value for money for the NHS, contributing to the Quality Innovation Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) programme.

Following the agreement of the Department of Health, NHS Employers and PSNC will now finalise the details of the changes and will develop a comprehensive implementation programme, working collaboratively with NHS and community pharmacy stakeholders. We will publish further information including details of the timing of implementation as well as comprehensive guidance for PCTs and community pharmacy contractors once we have further advanced the implementation activity.

Kind regards

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