



16 August 2011

To: LMC Chairs
LMC Secretaries
LPC Chairs
LPC Secretaries

Dear Colleague

Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework – Service Developments

We have published information for GP practices about the introduction of the New Medicine Service (NMS) and nationally targeted Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) in community pharmacy in England. This is attached for information. These services will be implemented from 1 October 2011. To support the implementation of the changes NHS Employers is working with SHAs to hold regional planning events in September. Further information about the events is detailed below.

The NMS and targeted MURs are designed to lead to improved health outcomes for patients, support better utilisation of community pharmacy expertise and resource, and provide value for money for the NHS, contributing to the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) programme. The changes should ensure that patients are able to use their medicines more effectively and they should be less likely to present to their GP with medicines-related problems.

As part of delivering the NMS, pharmacy contractors or their representatives must contact local GP practices about the service. LMCs and LPCs have a key role to play to make sure this process runs as smoothly as possible as it will be important for community pharmacies to discuss the NMS and targeted MURs with local GP practices in order to ensure that patients can get the most benefit from the new services.

We would encourage LPCs and LMCs to facilitate these discussions locally so that practices are not inundated with requests for meetings with local pharmacies.

Sue Sharpe
Chief Executive
PSNC

Laurence Buckman
Chairman
GPC

Felicity Cox
Lead Negotiator
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SHA regional planning events

The purpose of the events is to:

- ensure that PCTs, Secondary Care Trusts, community pharmacists and GPs all understand the new community pharmacy services
- ensure that PCTs, GPs, community pharmacists and Secondary Care Trusts work together and plan how services will be implemented locally
- ensure that all risks and issues related to successful implementation are identified
- ensure that all stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in making these services (and in particular the New Medicine Service) a success
- plan for local events to happen at PCT level to ensure local engagement.

SHA Pharmaceutical Advisers are working with PCTs to ensure that there is good engagement from both GP and pharmacy representatives.

The provisional dates for these events are below. For further information please contact your SHA Pharmaceutical Adviser.

SHA	Date
South Central	13 September
North West	29 September
North East	27 September
Yorkshire and Humber	22 September
South East Coast	21 September
South West	26 September
West Midlands	21 September
East Midlands	23 September
East of England	15 September
London	14 September (provisional)