

PSNC: PHARMACY'S POTENTIAL MUST BE REALISED

Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC, has today written to the new Secretary of State for Health, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, outlining the vital roles that community pharmacies play in both health and social care, and stressing the sector's potential to do more for patients and the NHS.

The letter urged the minister to work with PSNC to ensure "clear and effective national contracting" to enable community pharmacy to achieve its full potential. And PSNC called for an end to the perverse incentives that disrupt co-operation between GPs and pharmacists.

Sue Sharpe said: "Many people believe pharmacies are just about dispensing medicines to patients, but the sector achieves far more than that, delivering clinical services, offering advice and services that are vital to allow patients to live independently, and contributing to health improvement and disease prevention. There is much more that pharmacy could still do to support patients and reduce pressure on more expensive NHS resources at this challenging time.

"To realise pharmacy's potential we now need the new Secretary of State to work with us to achieve clear and effective national contracting through the National Commissioning Board, enabling GPs and pharmacists to work together to ensure good value for money for the NHS, neutralising perverse incentives that disrupt co-operation between the professions. We look forward to progressing these and other matters with him and his team."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
- The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as the representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible NHS service opportunities, remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England. PSNC represents and promotes the interests of 10,500 pharmacy contractors (pharmacy owners) in England. It is the role of PSNC to liaise with the Department of Health and representatives of the NHS in England to negotiate the contractual terms for the provision of NHS community pharmacy services.
- For further information, including links to the academic literature on the subject, please contact Amy Bourke or Sam MacAuslan on 020 618 9187 or psnc@luther.co.uk.