



Press Release

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Changes to the Community Pharmacy New Medicine Service (NMS) payment structure announced

The NHS Employers organisation and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) today announce that Department of Health Ministers have agreed changes to the Community Pharmacy New Medicine Service (NMS) payment structure.

From May 2012 contractors will earn between £20 and £28 for each NMS full service intervention they provide depending on the total number of patients who receive the service in the month. The new structure will provide reward for each NMS provided whilst also encouraging the provision of the service to the greatest number of patients.

In recognition of the work that contractors undertook between October 2011 and April 2012, a loyalty payment will be made to contractors for activity that fell below the first target level or between target levels. Claims for NMS full service interventions submitted for this period which fell below the first target level will be rewarded at £20 each while those which fell between bands will be rewarded at £25 per intervention.

Felicity Cox, lead negotiator of the NHS Employers community pharmacy negotiating team said:

"We are pleased to have concluded an agreement on changes to the New Medicine Service payment structure.

"The take up of the service has been encouraging, with patients benefiting from the interventions delivered by pharmacists who are finding the service professionally rewarding.

"We believe the new payment structure will provide a fair reward for contractors delivering the service and will enable pharmacy contractors to deliver the greatest number of interventions. This will benefit both the NHS and its patients."

Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC said:

"We believe the revised arrangements we have negotiated provide a fair reward for pharmacy contractors providing the NMS. There has already been much positive feedback about the service from patients and pharmacists, and we hope the new payments will encourage all contractors to build this valuable service into their practice."

A briefing paper giving further details about the changes is available at <http://www.nhsemployers.org/nms>.

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Notes for editors:

- The New Medicine Service (NMS) was introduced in October 2011 as an advanced service in the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) and provides early support to patients to maximise the benefits of the medication they have been prescribed.
- A full service intervention is the term used to indicate when service provision to a particular patient is complete.
- 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.

- Follow Dean Royles, director of the NHS Employers organisation, on Twitter at https://twitter.com/NHSE_Dean.
- The NHS Employers organisation is the voice of employers in the NHS, supporting them to put patients first. See www.nhsemployers.org for more information.

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