

Minor Ailments Service for Wales

PSNC has welcomed news that the Welsh Assembly Government has agreed a National Minor Ailments service to begin next year.

PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

“It is excellent news that Wales has followed Scotland by agreeing to a national Minor Ailments Service. The lack of such a service in England is a missed opportunity and results in a terrible waste of resources and pharmacists’ expertise.

“PSNC’s submission to the 2008 Pharmacy White Paper, made jointly with PAGB, forcefully made the case for a national Minor Ailments Service, which would support and encourage patient self-care, free up time for GPs, and make considerable financial savings for the NHS.

“NHS reforms in England may be consuming resources at the Department of Health, and we were pleased to be able to launch the 2011 contract service changes in this context. A lack of resources, however, is no excuse to make the development of a national minor ailments service less of a priority. The UK spends approximately £1.5 billion every year on GP consultations for minor ailments, and in a cash-strapped NHS, developing the role of community pharmacy to tackle this problem should be any easy decision.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- The Joint PSNC/PAGB paper on a minor ailments service is available here: http://www.psn.org.uk/publications_detail.php/231/psnc_and_pagb_paper_on_minor_ailments
- The Community Pharmacy Wales announcement on the National Minor Ailments Service is available here: <http://www.cp.wales.org.uk/>
- 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 please contact Amy Bourke or Sam MacAuslan on 020 618 9187 or psnc@luther.co.uk.