

*Building on strengths, delivering our future*

**Topical issues**

From April 1st, the Global Sum that funds the pharmacy contractual fees was fully devolved to PCTs. This in itself is not an issue providing that period of treatments on prescriptions are not extended to generate potential and perceived savings which may be detrimental to the fair distribution of the global sum to individual pharmacies. The local PCTs have given no indication that they have any plans to do so but we would ask all contractors to be vigilant and feedback to the LPC should this become a trend.



At the same time, PCTs have come under increased pressure to find additional savings from their prescribing budgets and so we are seeing further movement towards branded prescribing where there are short-term savings to be made against Drug Tariff Cat M prices. The LPC has discussed these plans with the PCTs but, whilst undesirable, we have had to accept some movement where the impact on their budgets is significant but hopefully the impact on pharmacy margins is minimised. If this affects patient care due to supply difficulties, please make the LPC aware immediately. Pharmacies are well placed to support patients through such switches and an MUR is an obvious solution to support patient concordance and adherence.

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**Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments**

The development of an effective and robust Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a very important activity for us and for PCTs at the moment and the LPC is working closely with PCTs on this. The LPC seeks your active engagement in the development of the PNA; the potential consequences of not doing so increases associated risks.

**Survey**

The LPC is planning a survey of all our pharmacy contractors and pharmacists to gain feedback on how we are working on your behalf and establish what you seek from us going forward. This will be an on-line survey so please check the LPC's website regularly for this item.

The PCTs will consult with all pharmacies and other parties once a draft PNA is available; this is likely to be this Autumn. The final PNA has to be in place by April 2011 latest and will then form the basis of Market Entry and service commissioning and decommissioning.

**Developing Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments**

A practical guide

July 2009

## Prescription sorting

From April 2010 dispensed prescriptions (which will be sent to NHS Prescription Services in May for processing) contractors are no longer required to sort calendar pack items into the red separators.

However, from April 2010 dispensed prescriptions, contractors will need to sort the following prescriptions separately:

- Broken bulk items (as you currently do)
- Items with a NIC of £100 or more
- 'Specials'

Ensure you include prescription forms with any of the following items within this sorting category:

- 'Specials' - an unlicensed medicine manufactured in response of a prescription for an individual patient where a licensed product is not available. They may be procured from a specials manufacturer.
- Prescription items endorsed that they have been extemporaneously prepared (see Drug Tariff Part IIIA)
- Prescription items where the prescriber has provided additional product information not in the product information field e.g. preservative-free or sugar-free within the dosage instructions.



## Health Living Pharmacies



NHS Portsmouth has been commissioned by the Department of Health on behalf of South Central SHA to develop a national framework for Healthy Living Pharmacies. This national framework will be informed by the local model in Portsmouth and has now been ratified by the national Public Health Leadership Forum for Pharmacy. The framework has been developed in close collaboration with the LPC supported by research undertaken by the Universities of Portsmouth and Wolverhampton.

The Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) concept is a key component of the Pharmacy White Paper, *Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths, delivering the future*, and encourages pharmacies to promote and support health and wellbeing.

In Portsmouth, it will also help them become equipped to offer more services such as weight management, stop smoking, alcohol advice, sexual health, Health Checks, support for long-term conditions and treatment for minor ailments. As well as displaying a distinctive branding (currently being worked on), HLPs will have to deliver their services using practitioners with appropriate skills from suitable premises. Staff attitudes and the level of engagement with other health professionals will also be key attributes.

The PCT has supported the development of key skills and 36 pharmacy managers have now received leadership training and there are now 28 qualified Health Trainer Champions in Portsmouth pharmacies. More training and development is planned throughout 2010/11.

## Your Committee

Following the nomination process to elect a new Local Pharmaceutical Committee in the first quarter of 2010, the new LPC met for the first time in April to review roles and responsibilities, strategy and priorities. As a result the new committee structure is as follows:

**Chair:** Debby Crockford (CCA representative, Rowlands)

**Deputy Chair:** Pat North (CCA representative, Sainsburys)

**Chief Officer:** Mike Holden (appointed)

**Finance Officer:** Patrick Leppard (appointed)

**Deputy Finance Officer:** Nick Storey (CCA representative, Lloyds)

**Governance sub-committee:**

Rob Darracott (CCA representative)

Kelly Lim (CCA representative, Boots)

Stephanie Harris (CCA representative, Lloyds)

Samantha Reilly (CCA representative, Rowlands)

**Market Entry sub-committee:**

Gary Warner (IOW Independent)

Arun Sharma (Southampton Independent)

Davinder Virdee (Hampshire Independent)

Charlotte Bourner (CCA representative, Rowlands)

David Slattery (AIMp representative, Day Lewis)

Santokh Sangha (Southampton Independent)

**Development Lead:** Deborah Evans (appointed)

**Local Pharmacy Group Leads:**

**North Hants:** Mak Johal

**Mid Hants:** Deborah Evans

**SE Hants:** Karen Maddison

**SW Hants:** Jane Corden and Janet Beith

**Portsmouth:** Anjella Coote

**Southampton:** Phil Harris

**IOW: The IOW Pharmacy Liaison Group is a PCT/CP group chaired by Karl Brown**

The LPC meets formally bi-monthly; all contractors are welcome to attend the morning open sessions of the meetings which run between 0930 and 1300. The 2010 dates are below, please contact the office if you plan to attend:

**20th May** (Langstone Hotel, Haying Island), **8th July** (Holiday Inn, Eastleigh)

**23rd September** (Wellow Golf Club), **18th November** (Langstone Hotel, Hayling Island)

### Officers

Chair: Debby Crockford  
Deputy Chair: Pat North  
Chief Officer: Mike Holden  
Finance Officer: Patrick Leppard

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### **LPC Purpose**

*To optimise the professional and financial opportunities for community pharmacy practices for the benefit of patients*

- **Supply shortages** — If you are continuing to suffer shortages of supplies from certain manufacturers which are impacting on your operation and patient care please log these on the PSNC website (link on LPC website). A list of manufacturer contact points was recently sent to all pharmacies and is also available on the LPC and PSNC websites. Please also report any significant issues which impact on continuity of patient care to the LPC office.
- **CPD** — A reminder that the Society are accelerating their CPD call and review for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. It is important that you have 9 entries for 2009/10 and have started your 9 for 2010/11 —[www.uptodate.org.uk](http://www.uptodate.org.uk). When the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is finally established, professional capability expectations will be greater as flagged by the recent consultations on standards.
- **IG** - if any pharmacy failed to meet the March 31 deadline there is still an opportunity to do so before the 2010/11 version is launched. Pharmacies should now be considering their action plan to move up to Level 2 across all requirements.
- **EPS** - With EPS Release 2 on the horizon, each pharmacy will need a Release 1 Practice Smart Card to maintain the Release 1 service in the interim once Release 2 cards are issued. Please ensure that you complete and return any documentation requested and thus have a practice card in use.

## Local Pharmacy Groups

The LPC's Local Pharmacy Groups are a great way for pharmacists and pharmacy team members to meet colleagues, develop an understanding of the local and national pharmacy and broader health environment, address identified CPD needs and feedback to the LPC.

There are 5 groups currently on the mainland with a slightly different approach on the IOW with the PCT leading supported by the LPC. We plan to create separate groups for SE Hants and Portsmouth during this year to improve effective local engagement. Each group has its own LPC webpage and its own lead.

Details of meetings are faxed to all pharmacies and put on the LPC website events calendar and LPG web pages.

In the next phase there are some great topics; come and join us!

### **Portsmouth and SE Hampshire:**

24th June— Alzheimers

### **South West Hampshire:**

18th May—Building a team

### **Southampton:**

29th June— to be confirmed

### **North Hampshire:**

25th May—Paediatric Asthma

### **Mid-Hampshire:**

24th May—Safety and opioid use

