

PSNC Legislation and Regulatory Affairs (LRA) Subcommittee

Minutes For the virtual meeting held on

Monday 23 November 2020

Members of LRA present: Ian Cubbin (Chair), Marc Donovan, Sunil Kochhar (part of the meeting), Janice Perkins, and Stephen Thomas.

In attendance: David Broome, Peter Cattee, Gordon Hockey, Clare Kerr, Has Modi, and Layla Rahman.

Welcome from the Chair

1. The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies for absence

2. There were apologies from Marc Donovan.

Conflicts or Declarations of Interest

3. There were no additional declarations.

Minutes of the last meeting

4. The minutes of the subcommittee meeting held in September 2020 were approved.

Actions and Matters Arising

5. There were no matters arising.

Hospital Prescriptions and supplies of certain medicines through the community

Regulatory dispensations sought in response to the second wave of coronavirus

6. The subcommittee noted the paper, the issues raised, and the regulatory dispensations sought. Also, that the full submission to DHSC and NHSE&I had been provided to PSNC committee already.
7. It was indicated that there is a pressing need for the requested dispensations and some concern that DHSC and NHSE&I had been slow to provide them. Those who had provided evidence to help make the case for the dispensations were thanked.

8. There was disappointment that a national announcement had not been made in relation to flexible opening hours, as it had been at the start of the outbreak in March/April 2020.
9. It was confirmed that PSNC should seek a delay to the deadline for work associated with Part 2 of PQS for this year - until the next financial year - with the income for the work paid this year.
10. A copy of the final regs dispensations sought and agreed can be found at <https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PSNC-Briefing-045.2020.pdf> .

Twelve month review of Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

11. The subcommittee noted the agenda paper and commented that:
 - a) numbers of SSPs and SSP dispensing were not high;
 - b) SSPs are bureaucratic and could be made simpler, noting that PSNC supports SSPs;
 - c) the process for endorsements is cumbersome, noting that an electronic solution is sought; and
 - d) there was concern that not all contractors were familiar with them.
12. It was noted that due to the broad range of possible SSPs – on quantity, strength, formulation, generic equivalent and therapeutic equivalent – views of SSPs sometimes vary according to the type of SSP under discussion.
13. Broadly, PSNC considers that the impact of SSPs has been positive, as one part of a range of measures to mitigate potential medicine supply issues and shortages, for the benefit of patients, and to ensure essential medicines are dispensed to patients in a timely manner.
14. It was agreed a suitable response should be made to the 12-month review of SSPs.
15. A copy of the response is available on the PSNC website -see <https://psnc.org.uk/psncs-work/psnc-publications-and-resources/responses-to-consultations/> .

Action 2

16. **Respond in appropriate terms to the 12-month review of SSPs.**

GPhC consultation: Managing concerns about pharmacy professionals: Our strategy for change

17. After discussion it was agreed this is not a consultation to which PSNC should respond.

NHS amendment Regulations

18. The report was noted.

Brexit Forum

19. The report was noted.

Supply of medicines from premises that do not have an NHS contract

Principles of regulation

20. The report was noted

Pharmacy Access Scheme

21. The report was noted and there was brief discussion of the Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS). It was described as political, to make the network accessible; and a burden imposed on the sector.

AOB

22. There were no AOB items.

No.	Action	Responsible
Action 2	Respond in appropriate terms to the 12-month review of SSPs.	GH