



t 0203 1220 810
e info@psnc.org.uk
w psnc.org.uk

PSNC Subcommittee Meeting Summaries: November 2021

This is a summary of meetings of PSNC's subcommittees held alongside the full PSNC Committee in late November 2021.

Service Development

The **Service Development Subcommittee** met in November to explore ideas for inclusion in the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for 2022/23, and possible other service development priorities.

The subcommittee considered a wide range of ideas for PQS criteria, including some which had been submitted by LPCs from across the country, and all options were prioritised in terms of feasibility for contractors, likely impact, and alignment with NHS priorities. Conclusions will be taken forward through the upcoming CPCF negotiations. Thanks go to all LPCs who submitted ideas to inform this discussion.

The subcommittee also considered other possibilities for service development in the medium to long-term, to inform the future development of the CPCF and a wider vision for development of the sector. Better use of independent prescribers was an important area for future development, the subcommittee felt, especially where this could build on existing services such as the hypertension case-finding service.

Funding and Contract

The **Funding and Contract Subcommittee** considered closely the latest figures on the delivery of funding to contractors, both retained margin and fees. Average levels of retained margin had held up well during the pandemic, due partly to Drug Tariff support. Adjustments to fee rates will be discussed with DHSC. The subcommittee also considered DHSC's formal response to its consultation on reimbursement changes and covered a couple of reimbursement topics in detail, including original pack dispensing (OPD).

Legislation and Regulatory Affairs

The **Legislation and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee** considered PSNC's response to DHSC's proposed changes to the Human Medicines Regulations on OPD, which were broadly welcomed. It was noted any changes should be sufficient to support subsequent proposals for OPD within NHS dispensing, when this is available.

New pharmaceutical amendment regulations were also considered. These provide for example:

- a new voucher scheme for contractors to provide prescription medicines during the pandemic or other emergency circumstances;
- the introduction of a new National Enhanced Service, where the service specification for an enhanced service sets standard conditions nationally; and
- confirmation of 1st October 2022 as the next date by which revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) must be published.

A report on the current 2021/22 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) was also received and concern was expressed that some contractors are being asked to complete the full CPAF form when the workforce and pandemic pressures are acute. This has been raised with NHSE&I.

Communications and Public Affairs

The **Communications and Public Affairs Subcommittee** held a workshop in the autumn to consider the priorities for lobbying activities through the autumn and winter. Key activities have included [briefing Parliamentarians on Year 4 of the CPCF](#) along with the challenges facing pharmacies; supporting the ongoing [All Party Parliamentary Group for Pharmacy \(APPG\) inquiry](#) into the future of community pharmacy; and raising pharmacy's profile including through Parliamentary questions and media statements.

In the New Year PSNC plans to hold a Parliamentary event to showcase the hypertension case-finding service; regional online meetings for MPs where LPCs are keen to engage with them; and update briefings for wider advocates and supporters of the sector.

The subcommittee considered PSNC's annual report for 2021/22 which has now been published at: <https://psncannualreport.com/>

The subcommittee has also been overseeing the ongoing PSNC and LPC website upgrade projects, with some LPC websites expected to begin rollout before Christmas, and the new PSNC website now expected to launch in January 2022. The project should lead to local and national websites that provide clearer, fresher and easier to navigate information resources for contractors.

LPC and Contractor Support

The **LPC and Contractor Support Subcommittee** considered the revised LPC expenses policy, which has been jointly drafted with PSNC's Regulations Team and will shortly be published along with guidance notes for LPC Treasurers in the LPC Members' Area.

The subcommittee also considered and supported a recommendation to focus the PSNC/LPC event schedule next year to two events, including the Annual LPC Conference, to leave space for other ad-hoc events and webinars as needed. This is separate from any further events required as a result of a contractor vote on the proposals of the Pharmacy Representation Review Steering Group (RSG).

The subcommittee discussed what additional support LPCs are likely to need in the next financial year and noted that assisting engagement with Integrated Care Systems (ICS) should form a key part of the PSNC LPC support workplan for 2022/23.