

26th April 2022

Dear Pharmacy Patient Medical Record System Suppliers,

Re: Initial response to Pharmacy Patient Medical Record System Suppliers

We would like to start by thanking you for your collective letter dated the 9 March 2022, received via the CPITG group and passed on by Dan Ah-Thion. It outlines a number of helpful points.

We recognise and welcome the advancements that have been made as stated including the significant uptake in use of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), the access to the Summary Care Record (SCR) and Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC).

We also recognise your continued commitment to the community pharmacy sector and the users of your systems and we share your ambition to ensure community pharmacies are able to provide the best possible care within the NHS and have the best IT to be able to do so to support the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework and beyond. Working collaboratively remains our intention, although clearly it will not always be possible to provide the lead times that we would all wish for.

The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) was published in July 2019 and clearly set out how community pharmacy would help support the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan through the introduction and development of clinical services. In 2020, NHS England and Improvement commissioned the Professional Records Standards Body (PRSB) to review and update the Community Pharmacy Standard to reflect the clinical services included within the CPCF in addition to services that were being piloted. The only exception to this uplift was the Discharge Medicines Service. Compliance against this standard remains critical to the direction of travel and pharmacy contractors' ability to deliver the services in an effective and efficient way.

NHS Digital continue to work with yourselves to assure against core NHS Digital products including but not limited to, the Patient Demographic Service (PDS), the Electronic Prescription Service and the Summary Care Record (SCR) and more recently to support the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS). The NHSBSA have also worked with yourselves on the development and introduction of APIs to support payments and the sharing of data and compliance against the Real Time Exemption Checking Service (RTEC).

Our ambitions for this sector remain high and we continue to have a challenging roadmap to ensure that pharmacy contractors do have the best IT available to them to support the current 5-year CPCF framework but also the 'what's next'.

Working collectively we plan to prepare a more detailed response for discussion at the next CPITG where we hope to respond collectively to some of the more individual points within the letter.

Signed on behalf of

NHS England and Improvement Pharmacy Policy team, NHS England and Improvement Transformation Directorate (PODAC), Department of Health (Pharmacy Policy team), NHS Business Services Authority Digital development team and NHS Digital Medicines and PODAC programmes.