

Introducing Community Pharmacy England

Community Pharmacy England is the new name for the representative body for all community pharmacies in England.

Who are we?

Community Pharmacy England represents all 11,000+ community pharmacies in England. We champion community pharmacies – our members – and represent them in negotiations with the Government and the NHS. We are responsible for negotiating the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) under which all community pharmacies operate.

We are currently in negotiations with the Government and NHS following the commitment of up to £645 million in investment – spread over two years – to support the roll out of a Common Ailments Service and other services as part of the Primary Care Access Plan. We work closely with everyone in the community pharmacy sector, including the Local Pharmaceutical Committees, to meet our goals. We are the voice of community pharmacy in England.

Our goal is to develop the NHS community pharmacy service, to enable community pharmacies to offer an increased range of high quality and fully funded services that meet the needs of their local communities and provide value and good health outcomes for the NHS and the public.

Why have we changed our name?

The name Community Pharmacy England better reflects the breadth of work that we do to both represent and support community pharmacies in England. We are their champion. The change in

name from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) to Community Pharmacy England was also recommended in an independent review of PSNC.

We have a clear purpose to champion community pharmacies, negotiating the best deals for them, uniting the sector and offering support to our members. We also work hard to protect and develop the pharmacy services that so many people rely on. Everyone relies on community pharmacies, and they have a vital role to play in society. Community Pharmacy England works to ensure that pharmacies get the right support, for the benefit of everyone.

Our committee

Our committee is made up of representatives of pharmacy owners in England from all parts of the community pharmacy sector.

How can you help to support your local pharmacies?

- Call for increased investment in community pharmacy to make the sector sustainable in the long-term.
- Recognise community pharmacy as the integral part of primary care and society that it is.
- Work with us to make a clear and sustainable plan for the future of community pharmacy.

How can we support you?

- We are very happy to meet with you to brief you on the national funding arrangements, and what we think must happen to make the sector sustainable in the long-term.
- We can provide tailored briefings which include data specific to your constituency, to illustrate the challenges and opportunities of pharmacy in your area.
- We can support with drafting materials and briefings for parliamentary questions, debates or anything else to help raise the issue of community pharmacy funding in Parliament.

Some of our key messages

- Millions of people rely on pharmacies every day and they have a vital role to play in society. For many people pharmacies act as the front door to health and care services and as we showcased during and after the pandemic, we have the ability to have an even greater impact on health outcomes. Our aim is to improve the wellbeing of the entire population.
- We want to harness the full potential of the sector by allowing pharmacists to make full use of their skillsets, which would enable us to help alleviate wider pressures on the NHS such as General Practice and A&E. However, for this to be possible, pharmacies must be sustainably funded, supported and empowered. This is not the case currently, with the community pharmacy sector experiencing a 30% funding cut in real terms since 2015.
- More than 90% of community pharmacies' turnover comes from NHS services paid for by funding from the NHS and Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC). As a result of the funding cuts, this means that many are now dispensing NHS medicines and providing other services at a loss. They are also facing a huge rise in costs – for example locum pharmacist rates recently increased by 80% in a 12-month period 12 months.
- This unprecedented financial pressure means that many pharmacies now have no choice but to reduce opening hours, services and staffing. Without fair and proper funding, some are being forced to close permanently. We need action to support our community pharmacies so that they can continue to serve their local communities and play an even greater role in supporting patients and reducing pressures on some other parts of the NHS.

For further information, you can reach us at: comms.team@cpe.org.uk

Community Pharmacy England is the new operating name of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee.