**Minutes of the CPE Funding and Contract Subcommittee meeting held at CPE office on Wednesday 13th September 2023 commencing at 11am**

**Members:**Peter Cattee (Chairman), David Broome (Deputy Chairman), Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Prakash Patel, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma, Ian Strachan

**In attendance:** Mike Dent, Jack Cresswell, Rob Thomas, Suraj Shah, Gemma Hackett

**Observers:** Gary Warner, Ifti Khan, Sami Hanna, Prakash Patel, Olivier Picard, Faisal, Fin McCaul, Stephen Thomas, Claire Nevinson, Marc Donovan, Niamh McMillan, Clare Kerr, Ian Cubbin, Jay Patel, Sian Retallick, Janet Morrison, Alastair Buxton, Gordon Hockey, James Wood, David Onuoha, Katrina Worthington, Daniel Fladvad, Gabriele Vickers and Shiné Brownsell

1. Welcome from Chair

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Anil Sharma.

1. Declarations or conflicts of interest

None.

1. Minutes of last meeting (Confidential Appendix FCS 01/09/23) and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 were approved.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Items are confidential where marked:**

1. Reimbursement reforms
   1. Original pack dispensing **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/09/23)**  
      Mike talked through the paper and annexes included in the confidential appendix. Analysis showed that around a quarter of items are currently receiving the split pack fee. The proportion of split pack items that would actually be within the scope of OPD is very small (i.e. most odd quantities prescribed are outside the 10% OPD window).  
        
      Our analysis showed that pay as dispensed (as opposed to pay as prescribed / pay for nearest pack) would likely be the preferred option for pharmacy contractors.   
        
      Gordon explained that at a recent meeting, DHSC had gone through changes to the regulations on sodium valproate and wider OPD. Changes to the HMR are being passed, and the changes relating to sodium valproate will come into effect immediately. Changes relating to wider OPD will not come into effect until changes to the PLPS regs are made.
   2. Category M – inclusion of off-patent medicines **(Confidential Appendix FCS 03/09/23)**

DHSC have raised the prospect of accelerating entry of large volume off-patents to Category M. The current bespoke approach is slow because DHSC need to seek clearance from Ministers each time and this causes considerable delay. The principle for having a structured approach seems reasonable, and we are looking for subcommittee views on the parameters.

The subcommittee noted the huge risk of margin over-delivery if off patent lines are not moved into Category M quickly.

It was agreed by the subcommittee that we could agree to having a structured approach for entry provided certain requirements are met e.g. DHSC has sufficient data coverage.

**MATTERS FOR REPORT**

1. CPCF negotiations
   1. Social and economic value of community pharmacy **(Confidential verbal update)**  
      Mike provided a verbal update to the Committee. Our consultant has completed his work on service valuation, subject to securing some outstanding data. Work on demonstrating the value of the current network compared to alternatives is proceeding well. We hope to share a full report at the next Committee meeting.
2. Reimbursement reforms
   1. Category A **(Confidential Appendix FCS 04/09/23)**  
      The information in the appendix was noted by the subcommittee.
   2. Category M **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/09/23)**

The information in the appendix was noted by the subcommittee.

1. Remuneration and reimbursement
2. Funding delivery update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/09/23)**  
   A report on margin and fee delivery was included in the confidential Appendix.
3. Price concessions update **(Appendix FCS 07/09/23)**

Feedback from the price concessions webinar held on 5 September was generally positive and the overall tone and delivery was well received. The involvement and support of NT members (David, Fin and Stephen) was appreciated. A suite of price concession resources including a recording of the webinar will be made available on our website.

1. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 08/09/23)**  
   The information in the appendix was noted by the subcommittee.

1. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 09/09/23)**  
   The information in the appendix was noted by the subcommittee.
2. Any other business

There was a query regarding the costs of consumables (labels, toners, containers, bottles etc) as prices of these have gone up due to inflation. Members agreed to share figures with the office.