

## Primary care contracting

### **Development of a Quality Assurance Contract Monitoring Toolkit for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework**

#### **Background**

As part of the support to the NHS on the implementation of the community pharmacy contractual framework, the NHS Primary Care Contracting Team were asked to co-ordinate and support the work of SHAs and PCTs in developing a core toolkit for assessing compliance and quality under the new contractual arrangements.

PCTs will have responsibilities for monitoring the successful implementation of essential and advanced services from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005, following the transitional period. PCTs will also want to support their pharmacists in ensuring all elements are being delivered and support the ongoing improvement of quality and service delivery.

Although PCTs are free to design and implement their own framework for this purpose, SHAs felt that it would be helpful to have a nationally designed and agreed framework with a core set of indicators and quality markers for assessing implementation, rather than PCTs 'reinventing the wheel'.

A nationally developed standard framework would also ensure that contractor organisations, audit and other support organisations could also be consulted on the drafting of the document.

#### **Development to Date**

The NHS Primary Care Contracting team initially asked PCTs to submit any previously developed pharmacy accreditation schemes or quality assurance frameworks. Numerous PCTs submitted their documents, which were used at a workshop conference in May with SHA, PCT, DH, PSNC representatives and other contractor organisations to develop a first draft framework for further consultation.

A number of small working groups were established from this to progress the work and further re-drafting rounds were undertaken, including discussions and suggestions for amendments with audit and counter fraud.

Findings from a further workshop event with LPC and contractor representatives from the PSNC, to rationalise and look at the practicalities of the draft document are being incorporated into the next revision.

## **Next Steps**

The draft document will undergo further consultation and reviews throughout July. The working groups will continue to meet and refine the document during this time. Supporting guidance will also be further developed to sit along side the framework document.

A final working document is expected at the end of July, after which PCTs and their pharmacy contractors will be invited to 'road test' the framework during August.

The final completed Quality Assurance Monitoring Toolkit will be launched in early September via the Primary Care Contracting website and SHAs. The toolkit will also be highlighted via a workshop in the Primary Care Contracting Part 5: Community Pharmacy Learning Exchange Events planned for September.

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