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## Welcome to the New LPC News

### Joint working between Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC and Sunderland LPC

The two LPCs held a joint meeting in July 2010; one of the items they discussed were the options around joint working and the importance of this to reduce the duplication of work and to reduce the cost to contractors. LPC members also felt that they could increase their effectiveness by speaking with a united voice. As a result the LPCs have agreed:

- To hold Joint LPC meetings at least twice a year, especially when there is an issue affecting both LPCs e.g. a negotiation on services or a major re-organisation.
- The Executive teams (Chairman, Secretary etc) of both LPCs to meet every couple of months for an update on what is happening in each area.
- To maintain the Joint Events Group, for developing training events etc for contractors & their staff.
- To reduce the number of attendees at PSNC Updates & other consultation events and share feedback with each other.
- To commission local training if several members need specific training, saving on travel expenses and possible overnight costs.
- To have a Joint Communications Group, to provide a Joint LPC Newsletter (this is your first edition and we welcome any feedback about it) , joint PR campaigns and press releases.

In the light of increasing cost pressures in the NHS, we hope that this will go a little way towards reducing the costs for our contractors.

## National Funding Settlement

### £140m to be recovered from community pharmacy

The final funding agreement for community pharmacy services for 2010/11 has been approved by the new Pharmacy minister, Earl Howe; £140m of retained purchase margin above the £500m contractual target is to be recovered. £120m will be recovered through adjustment to Category M prices of £60m per quarter, with effect from October 2010, with the remaining £20m being recovered over 2011/12.

(The results of the margins survey for 2009-10 show excess margin of £276m, however only £100m of this is being recovered, as the remainder is being off-set against infrastructure costs and one-off costs for items such as Information Governance. The remaining £40m is excess margin from the first half of this year). Contractors will definitely feel the pinch of this excess margin recovery when January payments come through and are strongly encouraged to start preparing now. The Cost of Service Inquiry hasn't reported yet but it is hoped that the final results will have a positive impact on next year's negotiations and reform of the payments system is also a possibility.



## Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS



You might just have noticed that there has been a major new White Paper from the coalition government!

There has been a lot of information about this in other pharmacy journals and magazines but here at the LPC News we thought it might be helpful to summarise some of the important points that might affect community pharmacy (subject to the current consultation)

There are plans to review the community pharmacy contract and incentivise high quality services through payment for performance (much like GPs' Quality and Outcomes Framework).

The new NHS Commissioning Board will have responsibility for commissioning a national community pharmacy contract.

GP commissioning will be a requirement for all GPs, via consortia and they will commission additional services required by the communities they serve and look at service redesign opportunities where services can be moved out of hospitals.

SHAs and PCTs will disappear, to be replaced with GP-led commissioning and a new NHS Commissioning Board.

The shift of public health services into local authorities will have a major effect on pharmacy as a lot of the enhanced services we provide come into this category (e.g. Stop Smoking, Drug Misuse and potentially Sexual Health services). It will become really important to develop good working relationships with local authorities.

Community pharmacies that wish to provide NHS services may, in future, need to be licensed by Monitor.

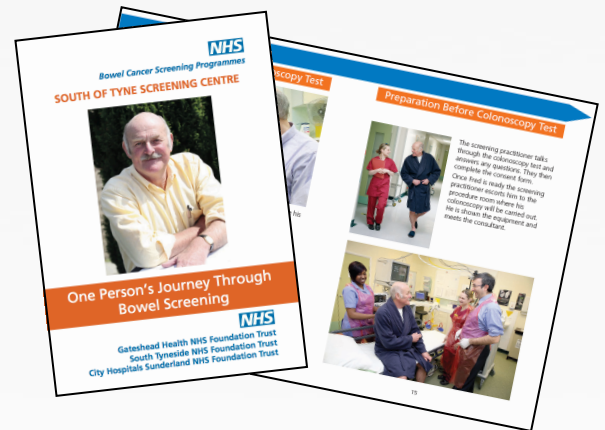
More implications will appear as more information on the government's plans emerge.

The two LPCs will be responding to all the consultations on behalf of contractors.

## Bowel Cancer Screening Booklet

The local Bowel Cancer Screening Team have produced a booklet to help guide patients through the whole screening process and what might happen if the patient gets called in for a colonoscopy. They contacted the LPC to see if community pharmacy would be interested in having copies of these booklets, as we had been involved in putting on Bowel Cancer training for pharmacists and their staff in 2009, along with raising over £4k for Bowel Cancer Charities last year. LPC members thought these could be very helpful for community pharmacists whose patients might be called for further testing, so each pharmacy will receive a few booklets sometime in September / October 2010. The team will be evaluating the booklets so, about 4 weeks after receiving them, the pharmacies will also receive a short evaluation form.

If you have any queries about Bowel Cancer Screening, please contact the local screening team, based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead (covering the entire NHS SoTW area) Telephone (0191) 4456179 / (0191) 4456010 Free Helpline Hub: 0800 707 60 60



## GP Half Day Closing

GP practices close for half day training on a regular basis. This can have workload implications for community pharmacies, with extra work coming before and after the closure, emergency supply requests and practices unavailable for queries during the event.

To help you plan, the LPCs have requested that the PCT send pharmacies the dates of these events and to start everyone off here are the dates of upcoming events over the next few months:

PCT Area	Afternoon half day training	Afternoon half day training
Gateshead	Wednesday November 10 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Wed March 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2011
South Tyneside	Thursday October 21 <sup>st</sup> 2010	Thursday January 20 <sup>th</sup> 2011
Sunderland	Wednesday November 17 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Wednesday December 8 <sup>th</sup> 2010

## NCSO November 2010



NCSO has been granted for the month of September to the following products:

**Gabapentin 100mg capsules**  
**Gabapentin 400mg capsules**  
**Citalopram 20mg tablets**

NCSO status only lasts until the end of the month that the application was made. If at the beginning of the following month, the problem is still not resolved, a new application for NCSO status is made. As it can take time to get a drug on the NCSO list for a new month see the FAQ response from the PSNC website replicated below for you:

**Q. Can I endorse a prescription 'NCSO' in advance of the NCSO Concession being agreed by the Department of Health?**

A. Yes, where a Part VIII product cannot be obtained at the Drug Tariff price because of a supply problem and a more expensive product has had to be dispensed, the prescription could be endorsed in anticipation of the NCSO Concession being granted. The full endorsement required is the initials, 'NCSO', full details of the product dispensed and the endorsement must be initialed and dated. NHS Prescription Services will reimburse based on the standard Part VIII price where the product was not been granted the NCSO Concession in the month concerned.