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| News Alert |
| Tuesday 9th May 2023 |

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|  | Government pledges £645m investment in community pharmacy |  |
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|  | The Government and NHS have today promised a £645m investment in community pharmacies over the next two years to support a pharmacy common conditions service, along with the NHS Pharmacy Contraception and NHS Hypertension Case-Finding services.This is the most significant investment in community pharmacy in well over a decade and it follows many months of sustained campaigning work by PSNC, highlighting both the untapped potential and the pressures in pharmacy, and building on our bid for a fully-funded Pharmacy First service which we first made in March 2022.The funding was announced as part of a new Government and NHS blueprint setting out their plans to improve access to primary care, including by allowing patients who need prescription medication for seven common conditions to get this directly from a pharmacy.The commissioning of a common conditions service from pharmacy – with appropriate funding – would be a huge win for community pharmacy and its supporters, and thanks go to everyone in the sector and beyond who has helped to build support for this in line with our [**Four-Point Plan**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=807d302444&e=d19e9fd41c).The additional investment in existing pharmacy services is also a welcome response from Government to PSNC's concerns about the affordability of these within the current funded envelope.As usual, service details and funding allocations will now be subject to negotiation between PSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England. These discussions, which will also look at the cost of IT integration and marketing of pharmacy services to the public, have already commenced and we hope to be able to report back to the sector over the summer.PSNC's Negotiating Team, which includes independent contractors, representatives of large multiples and an AIM contractor, will lead these negotiations for the sector.As we take these discussions forward, PSNC will remain very focused on the huge pressures facing pharmacy businesses and on the need to find long-term solutions to these.**Janet Morrison, PSNC Chief Executive**, said:"This investment in community pharmacy and its future – the biggest investment in pharmacies for many years – is a huge vote of confidence from Government, the NHS and from Ministers. It is a direct result of the positive campaigning work that has been led by PSNC, working hard to promote community pharmacy as a solution to some of the wider primary care pressures and problems. Thank you to everyone in the sector who has supported this influencing work."We hope that a fully-funded common conditions service and additional investment in the two existing services will help to give us a platform from which to build an ambitious future for pharmacies and the communities they serve. It is now clear that Ministers recognise the value that pharmacies can offer and the services we can provide if we are put on a sustainable footing, and we will be looking to build on that positivity through our ongoing vision and strategy work. A financially supported community pharmacy sector can do so much more."We are looking forward to discussing the details with DHSC and NHS England, but as ever, the devil will be in the detail, and our Negotiating Team are deeply aware of and very focused on the immense and underlying challenges that pharmacies are still grappling with. It is not yet clear the extent to which this investment will be enough to help the sector through these pressures, and our strategic work to lay the ground for future CPCF negotiations will continue at pace alongside the negotiations on this significant and very positive policy win."[**Read more, including some initial FAQs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2b46a58a74&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee    14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQTel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: **info@psnc.org.uk**  |
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