



News Alert

Friday 22nd May 2020

Independent Review into Contractor Support and Representation: Update for Contractors

Last year, PSNC and the LPCs jointly funded an independent review into community pharmacy contractor support and representation. The aim of the review was to find ways to optimise LPC and PSNC working to ensure that the national network structure for contractor representation is working as efficiently as it can, is providing best value for contractors and is fit for the future.

The review author – Professor David Wright, who is Professor of Pharmacy Practice from the School of Pharmacy at the University of East Anglia – had planned to publish his final report and recommendations in May. However, due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic was having on everyone in community pharmacy at that time, publication of the report was postponed.

Professor Wright has used the lockdown period to listen to LPC and PSNC representatives about the network's response to the pandemic and he will reflect on this in his report. Now that the immediate COVID-19 peak in the UK seems to have passed, Professor Wright has announced that he will publish his report before the summer – on **Friday 19th June**.

The report will set out a series of recommendations for how the support and representation offered for contractors can be improved.

Contractors will be encouraged to read the report and to ask questions of Professor Wright in a webinar to be held on the evening of **Monday 29th June**. Similarly, LPCs and PSNC will have the opportunity to question Professor Wright in a virtual meeting to be held early in July.

At that virtual meeting, PSNC and the LPCs will also discuss a plan for next steps – we expect that this will initially involve setting up working groups to look at some of the review's recommendations.

Professor David Wright said:

"The response from community pharmacy to the COVID-19 pandemic has been phenomenal and I know that LPCs and PSNC have been doing all that they can to support contractors through this. It felt important not to distract from this work in April and May and as such to postpone the publication of my findings. Now that we are coming out of the initial COVID-19 peak I am looking forward to sharing my recommendations with the sector and to hearing your reactions. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the events scheduled for late June and early July."

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes said:

"When I proposed this review in October 2019, little did we know the situation we would find ourselves in six months later. But one of the things to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic has been a closer working relationship between LPCs and PSNC. I hope that Professor Wright's report will build on this and enable an environment where PSNC and the LPCs can work better together to support contractors. That work must not be done by any of us in isolation, and we must ensure contractor input at every stage."

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