

English Pharmacy Board 24 June 2009

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Pharmacy IT Update

Purpose

To provide the English Pharmacy Board with an update on pharmacy IT issues in England

Strategic objective domains

EPB members are aware of the current status and imminent developments of some of the initiatives in pharmacy IT

Action Required

For information only

1. Background

The Society is currently engaged on the following pharmacy IT related initiatives:

Electronic transfer of prescriptions

The Society is finalising Good Dispensing Guidelines for the English Electronic Prescription Service Release 2. Good Dispensing Guidelines covering community pharmacy IT for Scotland and Wales will follow in due course. The Society is regularly in contact with the EPS team at Connecting for Health on issues surrounding EPS training and implementation.

Standard Pharmaceutical Care Record

The Society has launched a project to develop a standard for the content and format of a pharmaceutical care record, to ensure that there is an agreed format for information required for pharmacy practice. An agreed pharmaceutical care record will:

- Provide standard for format and content of pharmaceutical care records, which is patient-centred and therefore independent of care setting and area of pharmacy practice. This may be used as a foundation for the development of innovative services.
- Promote a unified approach to pharmaceutical care and intervention recording across the pharmacy profession, and therefore improve communications across the profession.
- Provide a standard to support professional teaching and development.
- Increase awareness outside the profession of the contribution that pharmacists make to patient care.
- Improve communications between pharmacists, other healthcare professionals and patients.
- Provide a standard for future development of IT systems in medicines management.
- Provide a foundation against which key outcome measures may be determined

This is a major project and will have implications for all sectors of the profession. A working group, chaired by Stephen Goundrey-Smith, has been established to take the project forward. The agreed approach by the group is to formulate scenarios in pharmacy practice to determine the information requirements and then work with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that all aspects of professional practice are covered.

Information Governance

The Information Governance Statement of Compliance (IGSOC) has been developed as a governance tool which helps the NHS ensure users of Connecting for Health services such as EPS are complying with the NHS information governance framework and policies. Compliance with the IGSOC will in future be a requisite for health professionals using Connecting for Health services. The Society is working with PSNC, DH and NHS Connecting for Health to formulate the guidance for community pharmacy businesses and owners on compliance with the IGSOC.

Care Records

The Society is monitoring the roll-out of the NHS Connecting for Health Summary Care Record project, especially the proposed pilot of SCR use by community pharmacists at Bradford. The Society is working with the other pharmacy bodies to facilitate a united approach to care records access by pharmacists.

Pharmacist Engagement

Initiatives concerning engagement of pharmacists in the pharmacy IT agenda are ongoing. The Society attended and had an exhibition stand at the NHS Connecting for Health Medicines Management event on March 5th in London. The final report of this event, which is still awaited, will inform the future strategy for engaging pharmacists in the IT agenda. The Society is facilitating pharmacist engagement with publicity material on the above projects. The Society is also looking to address the issue of pharmacy informatics training and undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Policy

The Society is beginning to develop an overall policy on the use of IT in pharmacy. This will be developed as two streams, a professional body and a regulatory policy.

Representation of the Society

Stephen Goundrey-Smith (or deputy) represents the Society at the Pan Pharmacy IT Group (joint communications group between Society, PSNC, NPA, CCA, DH and Connecting for Health), the Connecting for Health National Advisory Group for Allied Healthcare Professions (AHPs) (representing the AHPs on healthcare IT issues), and the Connecting for Health National Clinical Reference Panel (Care Records Reference Group). Stephen Goundrey-Smith is also a member of the GHP/UKCPA IT Committee.

The Society has responded to the Royal College Shared Record Professional Guidance Draft Report and to the IT issues highlighted by the Nuffield Council of Bioethics Consultation on Medical Profiling and Online Medicine.

2. Risks & Issues

Continued progress with the Society's engagement with pharmacy IT issues will require continued good communications and a willingness to work together with other pharmacy bodies on issues of common concern. There is also a need to gradually build relationships with other stakeholders concerning IT issues. The Society is beginning to do this with pharmacy system suppliers and representatives of the medical profession.

Conclusion

A number of distinct workstreams on pharmacy IT issues are now beginning to develop. The English Pharmacy Board will receive a regular update on pharmacy IT issues. The draft Pharmaceutical Care Record standard, and draft pharmacy IT policies will be presented to the Board in detail in due course.

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