

English Pharmacy Board 16 September 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 has now published Good Dispensing Guidelines for the English Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) Release 2 – available at <http://pharmacyplb.com/gooddispensingguidelines.aspx>

Good Dispensing Guidelines covering community pharmacy IT for Scotland and Wales will follow in due course.

EPS Release 2 is currently being piloted at one pharmacy/GP surgery pairing in Leeds. The Society has been invited to attend a boardroom demonstration of EPS Release 2 at Connecting for Health in Leeds in September. The Society is also working closely with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and the National Pharmacy Association (NPA) to address business process and usability issues with EPS Release 2.

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 the following benefits:

- Provision of a pharmacy care record (including OTC medicines), which is patient-centred and therefore independent of care setting and area of pharmacy practice. This will be used as a foundation for the development of clinically-focused services, such as those envisaged by the Community Pharmacy in England White Paper.

- Promoting a unified approach to pharmaceutical care and intervention recording across the pharmacy profession, and therefore improve communications across the profession.
- The opportunity to demonstrate the provision of pharmaceutical care within the wider healthcare community, and show the valuable contribution made by pharmacy as a whole.

This is a major project and will have implications for all sectors of the profession.

A working group, chaired by Stephen Goundrey-Smith, has explored and documented a range of pharmacy practice scenarios, and has identified a wide range of stakeholders for this work within the pharmacy profession and its business partners. A briefing paper has been sent to these stakeholders for initial comments and feedback, with a view to organising a stakeholder meeting later on in the year. Specialist pharmacy organizations will have the opportunity to develop practice scenarios relevant to their area of practice.

### 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 prerequisite 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. The draft Information Governance guidance for pharmacists will be put out for consultation later this year.

### 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 and PSNC have been invited by the Department of Health to comment on the Summary Care Record project briefing documentation, and will be involved in the implementation process in due course.

The Society is working with the other pharmacy bodies to facilitate a united approach to care records access by pharmacists, and has developed a series of standard communications messages on care records access for pharmacists, to be used by all the pharmacy bodies.

### Pharmacist Engagement & Training

The Society has held sessions on a) EPS Release 2 and b) comparison of pharmacy IT in England, Scotland and Wales at the British Pharmaceutical Conference.

The Society is organizing: a) a webinar on pharmacy IT for community pharmacists, as a training and CPD resource, and b) a pharmacy informatics symposium for representatives of the Schools of Pharmacy to discuss the development of a core pharmacy informatics curriculum for the MPharm degree program.

### Policy

The Society is developing an overall policy on the use of IT in pharmacy. This will be developed as two streams, a professional body and a regulatory policy. The professional body pharmacy IT policy is being presented to the English Pharmacy Board as a separate agenda item at this meeting.

### EPB Pharmacy IT Campaign.

EPB is planning a campaign around several strategic pharmacy IT issues, including EPS, the Summary Care Record and use of barcodes in the dispensing process to reduce dispensing errors. This will be discussed as a separate agenda item for this meeting.

### 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's response to the IT issues highlighted by the Nuffield Council of Bioethics Consultation on Medical Profiling and Online Medicine has been well-publicised. The Society is planning to respond to the NPA Pharmacy IT Green Paper and the Conservative Party response to the Independent NHS IT Review, both of which are currently out for consultation.

## **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. Relationships between the Society, PSNC and NPA on pharmacy IT issues are currently good.

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 have developed and the Society's engagement in pharmacy IT issues is increasing. The EPB will continue to be informed of progress with pharmacy IT workstreams.

### **Author**

Stephen Goundrey-Smith  
Healthcare IT Pharmacist