

## **Procurement of Specials**

### **Purpose**

To provide professional guidance on the procurement of specials

### **Strategic objective domain**

Recognised as world influencing and world class

### **Action required**

The English Pharmacy Board is asked to agree the content of the guidance – see attached guidance document (09.11/EPB.04 Appendix A)

#### **1. Background**

- Meetings have occurred between pharmacy representatives from primary and secondary care and Susan Grieve at DH. The meeting re-visited the proposal to include the top X product in the Drug Tariff. Whilst Susan declined to discuss any such approach, she agreed to explore other approaches with us. Subsequent discussion between Susan and Keith Ridge seem to have lead to his recent request to Vic Standing to establish a task and finish group to look at primary care specials on behalf of the PCT and SHA Pharmacy Leads
- The East of England team have prepared a toolkit for PCT pharmacists, to help them identify particular issues to think about and actions to consider to promote appropriate prescribing and use, and discourage inappropriate prescribing of specials.
- The NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service have prepared a toolkit, orientated towards financial governance. They are keen to have a high-profile launch event and were hoping to do this in conjunction with launch of the RPSGB guidance but may go ahead alone.
- The Business Services Agency has developed an ePACT tool for specials they are keen to release to the wider NHS in conjunction with the CFSMS toolkit.

In the context of all this work by other stakeholders it seems that it can only be in the best interests of the profession for the Society to be seen to be proactive in addressing the professional practice aspects of the use of specials in primary care. The guidance is an important part of doing that.

#### **2. Risk Implications**

- The PLB will not be seen as leading the pharmacy profession

#### **3. Resource Implications**

There will be resources required to design the guidance as a web-based document. This will come from the budget that previously belonged to practice.

Heidi Wright  
English practice and policy lead