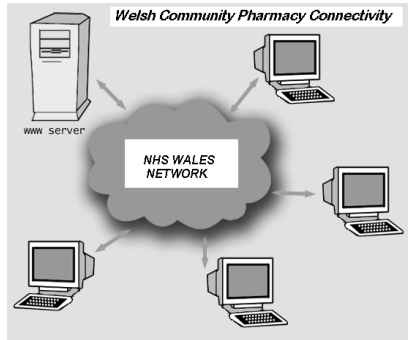


NHS Connectivity Services for Community Pharmacy – Oct '08

This is one of a series of fact sheets written for Welsh community pharmacies about IT developments in Wales



In March 2006, the national Community Pharmacy IM & T Programme Board gave authorisation for all Welsh community pharmacies to be provided with new secure, managed telecommunications networks, capable of connecting to the NHS Wales internal network as well as supporting existing business needs.

In January 2007, the Primary Care Informatics Programme commenced a new project for installing and configuring NHS-approved networks and this involved all 'independents', small / medium chains as well as the 'multiples' such as Boots Pharmacy and Lloyds Pharmacy.

By 1st September 2008, more than **95%** of all Welsh community pharmacies had been installed with their NHS-enabled networks and the remainder will be completed by the end of the year.

FAQs (Frequently asked Questions)

Why do I need a new network?

Previous networks in community pharmacies across Wales were not NHS standard and therefore not 'fit for purpose' for connecting to the internal NHS Wales network. New networks are NHS Wales-approved and give community pharmacies quick and efficient support services if they experience any problems.

Who do I contact if my network 'goes down'?

If you experience difficulties, you must first contact your system supplier who will do initial checks and escalate the problem to your network provider / NHS Wales network managers, if necessary.

What is the NHS Wales network?

The NHS Wales network is a trusted and private network that is available only to NHS employees / organisations, such as hospitals, GPs, Locals Health Boards and now community pharmacies.

Can I access the NHS England network?

No. Although NHS Wales is a part of the NHS England network, you will only be able to reach NHS Wales internal systems and services.

5 Key Principles of Managed Network Services

1. They are NHS-approved, robust and secure
2. They are fully managed and supported by the provider and NHS
3. They allow access to internal NHS Wales services, such as the 'Health of Wales Information Service' (HOWIS)
4. They support your existing commercial business needs
5. The monthly costs of connectivity are covered by your recurring £200 monthly funding from the Welsh Assembly

What systems and services are currently available to me on the NHS Wales network?

Initially, you have been given access to the NHS Wales only information web-portal, known as HOWIS (the 'Health Of Wales Information Service').

What are the benefits of HOWIS?

HOWIS intranet allows you access to restricted health databases and information, not otherwise available outside the NHS Wales network. In addition, it allows you access to the NHS Wales e-Learning library for health publications and journals, useful for your CPD.

What other services will I get?

Your NHS Wales connectivity is capable, in time, of allowing you access to an NHS Wales eMail service, PSU (Prescribing Services Unit) payment systems and services, plus links with electronic patient records.

These systems and services are being developed as separate projects by the Primary Care Informatics Programme and Informing Healthcare, in conjunction with the national Board.

To Be Advised

http://www.ipc-online.org.uk/community_pharmacy_wales

<http://www.rpsgb.org/wales/fimt.html>