

27 October 2004

OCTOBER 2004 MEETING OF NPA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

THE NEW PHARMACY CONTRACT

The National Pharmaceutical Association welcomes the introduction of a new pharmacy contract. The NPA does, of course, recognise fully that the new contract is subject to ratification through a ballot of contractors. The NPA believes that the new contract is fundamental to taking forward the profession and to giving community pharmacists a core NHS clinical role fit for the future.

Whilst the Board was fully supportive of the principles behind the new contract and in particular the fact that it establishes a framework for delivering enhanced NHS services it did recognise that a number of members dispensing small numbers of prescriptions would have particular concerns about the impact of the new contract on their pharmacies. The Board recognises fully the difficulties facing PSNC in negotiating a contract which benefits everyone equally. It is therefore pleased to see that PSNC had negotiated a number of measures for those pharmacies dispensing less than 2000 items per month. Pharmacies dispensing between 1100 and 2000 prescriptions per month will continue to receive a payment equivalent to the current practice allowance (£18000 pa) for three years. There will too be a graduated practice payment and funding for repeat dispensing. The Board also welcomes the fact that small pharmacies will have three years in which to develop services to a reasonable level and recognise the importance of the standard form LPS as a means of achieving this.

The Board noted the introduction of an exit payment which will allow those pharmacies wishing to do so to close. This payment will be available only for year one of the new contract. The Board felt that some contractors may wish to try and meet the new requirements and transfer over to LPS or grow the business to a level at which it attracts mainstream funding. It felt therefore

the exit payments should be moved in time to apply after three years of the new contract. This would extend the opportunity for those contractors wishing to do so to benefit from the small pharmacy transitional arrangements.

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Working for community pharmacy

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