



DAT Association item: 4

**Modernising NHS Community Pharmacy in Scotland
Consultation Paper/ National Pharmaceutical Forum working group report on
Substance Misuse Services**

Purpose

Modernising NHS Community Pharmacy in Scotland

1. This paper outlines the key issues identified through the current Scottish Executive consultation on Modernising NHS Community Pharmacy in Scotland. Response to the consultation should be submitted to the Scottish Executive by Tuesday 1st June 2004. DAT Association members are invited to comment on any areas included in the paper that we would wish to submit a response on. A copy of the full consultation document can be down loaded from:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/health/mncp.pdf>
 - **New Contract:** Section 2 of the consultation paper is of particular relevance to Action Teams as it deals with the proposed introduction of the new community pharmacy contract. The policy intention of the new contract is reflected in the Scottish Executive's strategy document *The Right Medicine*, this document indicates the development of a new system of remuneration for community pharmacists. As with the new GP contract proposed changes to the pharmacy contract will likely affect the provision of drug misuse services.
 - **Additional Services:** Although the contract discussions are ongoing a provisional framework for the new contract has been agreed. It appears that related drug misuse services will be not be classified as a core pharmaceutical care service. As such 'additional services' will, as now, be locally negotiated – this includes both needle exchange schemes and methadone dispensing services.
 - **Costing implications of the new contract:** Changes to either the community pharmacists' fee structure (under New Contract arrangements) or the payment processing arrangements could have financial implications for the Common Service Agency, who currently provide those services for Boards. Obviously local negotiations, as has been the case with the GP contact will also affect local monies available for drug misuse .

National Pharmaceutical Forum Report – Improving Services to Substance Misuses

2. In addition Association members are asked to consider the attached draft National Pharmaceutical Forum report. The report is currently a draft and not for wider circulation. The Group was set up to explore ways to maximise the contribution of pharmacists to services for substance misusers in Scotland. Key recommendations from the report are:

- pharmacy is fully represented at a senior level on every Drug Action Team
- All mainland NHS Boards should appoint a specialist pharmacist to take on the role formulating and implementing national and local policy on pharmaceutical services for substance misusers
- The Scottish Executive Health Department should establish a series of integrated care pilots, based on the principles of the pharmaceutical care model schemes
- The profession should take advantage of opportunities offered by the new community pharmacy contract to engage more fully in the planning, provision, delivery and extension of services for substance misusers
- Pharmacists should adopt a proactive approach to health promotion, health education and harm reduction and every attempt should be made to ensure that all messages are up to date and consistent with current thinking
- The profession should establish national and local networks of pharmacists engaged in services for substance misusers lead by specialist pharmacists in substance misuse [SPISMs]
- The concept of the “Four Way Agreement” should be standardized for use in NHS Scotland
- Wherever possible, education and training should be conducted on a multidisciplinary, multi-agency basis. Pharmacists should be afforded every opportunity to attend meetings / seminars in order to develop and promote a team approach to patient care.

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