

## **Community pharmacy response to Network Contract DES outline service specifications**

We welcome the increased focus on collaboration and integrated working across primary care as part of the latest GP contract framework.

A key aspect of this is the establishment of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) through the new Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES).

Community pharmacies are already an integral part of primary and community healthcare and the sector stands ready and willing to support PCNs and GPs to ensure the successful delivery of the national services that are planned for the Network Contract DES from April 2020.

In September 2019 the community pharmacy sector responded to the request from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) to submit a paper in which we highlighted how community pharmacy can support PCNs and general practice to ensure the successful delivery of the seven national services for the benefit of patients and the NHS.

We support the recognition of the importance of medication reviews and the benefit they can bring for patient care and clinical outcomes as well as delivering NHS efficiencies. We welcome the fact that this specification recognises the role of community pharmacy in delivering the New Medicine Service (NMS) which is currently offered by the vast majority of community pharmacies. There may be further opportunities to achieve the aim of this specification by extending the scope of the NMS to cover all the patient groups highlighted as a priority for SMRs.

We will continue to engage with NHSE/I to ensure that primary care strategy and policy fully recognises the current and potential role of community pharmacy in supporting the wider healthcare system.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration as the national service specifications are further developed, including the introduction of the CVD case-finding service, for which we are confident community pharmacy teams can play a significant role.