



Department of Health

To:

Pharmacy stakeholders' representative bodies

7 June 2016

Dear all,

Consultation on changes to medicines legislation - 'hub and spoke' dispensing

I would like to thank those of you who responded to our recent consultation on changes to medicines legislation including on 'hub and spoke' dispensing and I would like to invite you to explore some of the issues that have come out of the consultation with us in more detail.

Although, the responses to the consultation demonstrated general support for the principle of allowing 'hub and spoke' dispensing across legal entities, they also showed us that there are concerns about the implementation of it, for example how patient consent, data protection and liability will work across legal entities.

Therefore, we would like to work with you to explore how these issues can be addressed and by whom, before we progress any changes to legislation. We will contact you in the next week or so with a proposed date for a first meeting of stakeholders' representative bodies which we expect to take place in July.

This means that we will no longer work towards a commencement date of 1 October 2016.

Today, Department of Health Ministers, in reply to a Parliamentary Question, have announced publicly that the Department will engage further with stakeholders' representative bodies on the 'hub and spoke' element of the consultation before progressing any legislative changes that enable 'hub and spoke' dispensing across legal entities. (See

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-25/38588/>)

We propose to invite the bodies listed at the bottom of this letter but if you feel there are other bodies that should be included then please contact Sandor Beukers (T: 020 7972 1152; E: sandor.beukers@dh.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Jeannette Howe
Head of Pharmacy

Invited Stakeholders' representative bodies:

- Pharmacy Voice
- National Pharmacy Association (NPA)
- Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies (AIMP)
- Company Chemists' Association (CCA)
- Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC)
- Dispensing Doctors' Association (DDA)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK)
- Association of Teaching Hospital Chief Pharmacists (ATHP)
- Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA)
- General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- Community Pharmacy Wales
- Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland
- Community Pharmacy Scotland