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To: All community pharmacy contractors

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4th July 2016

Dear Colleague,

Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework

I am writing to advise you of the implementation of the Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) and seeking return of your annual assurance declaration for the 16/17 year.

Background

A key goal of the DHSSPS strategy document “Making it better through Pharmacy in the Community”¹ is to ensure that throughout life, in accordance with their clinical needs, people have access to timely, safe, quality assured medicines supplied with appropriate advice and support to help them gain the best outcomes from their treatment and avoid harm.

In order to assure that patients and members of the public receive safe, effective and high quality pharmaceutical services the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has worked closely with CPNI to develop an assurance process for community pharmacy which is detailed in the enclosed CPAF. The aim and purpose of the framework is to monitor compliance with Terms of Service, service specifications, related professional standards and best practice guidance.

As detailed in my earlier communication, dated 15th February 2016, the CPAF consists of two components:

- (i) an annual declaration by each community pharmacy contractor, and
- (ii) a programme of visits, undertaken by HSCB staff, to each pharmacy over a three year period.

Since then, a series of pilot visits has been undertaken which has proved extremely useful in refining both the assurance process and the framework documentation. I would ask that you discard any previous copies you may have and refer to the following enclosed documentation which has been agreed with CPNI.

CPAF guidance document

This provides further guidance on the framework, details of how the process will be managed and the relevant documentation. Further information is also available on the pharmaceutical section of the BSO website at <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2693.htm>

Community pharmacy assurance declaration

Enclosed is the individual assurance declaration form for your pharmacy. This should now be completed and returned to your local HSCB office by Friday 19th August 2016. Where appropriate, please bring this correspondence to the attention of the pharmacy contractor / Head Office.

Following return of the assurance declaration forms, the HSCB will select pharmacies for the first wave of visits, the process for which is described in the guidance document. Pharmacies selected for visits will be notified in early September with the visits due to commence late September / early October.

If you have any queries in relation to the framework, or completion of the declaration form, please contact your local Pharmacy Adviser, via your local office, in the first instance.

I would like to thank you for your co-operation with the assurance framework which is important to provide the necessary assurance in relation to the quality and safety of community pharmacy services and the wider patient safety agenda.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Asst Director Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

cc. Gerard Greene, CPNI

ⁱ http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/making_it_better_through_pharmacy_in_the_community.pdf