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Sue Sharpe
Chief Executive
Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee
Times House
Bravingtons Walk
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25 April 2014

Dear Sue,

Plenary meeting - 25 April 2014

Set out below are the main points which I felt came out of our plenary meeting today.

We outlined the principles of negotiation. Recognising the new twin track process with NHS Employers negotiating on behalf of NHS England regarding remuneration and services and the DH directly negotiating with PSNC on Terms of Service and reimbursement. We noted:

- until an agreement is signed-off by both PSNC and NHS England, all discussion between NHS Employers and PSNC is on a “without prejudice” basis, i.e. nothing agreed until everything is agreed.
- a pre-requisite of our negotiations is the full commitment and adherence by all sides to confidentiality

We aim to complete the negotiations for 2014/15 by the end of June to allow implementation on 1st October 2014.

As we agreed, this letter summarises the meeting and will act as formal feedback to both parties and NHS England.

[s36]. We have captured the essence of the discussions but the detailed starting point will be in the briefing papers of the sub-groups, where we agreed that these matters would be dealt with.

- **Increased patient safety reporting** –The principle of increased patient safety reporting was accepted, however we recognised that there was significant clarification required for various matters in this area. A face-to-face meeting has been arranged for 1st May.

- **Increasing targeted MURs to 70%** – You supported increasing targeted MURs to 70% and agreed that further work would be done on additional target areas. Background evidence will be pulled together for a teleconference on 2nd May [s36 & s43]
- **Increasing repeat dispensing** – [s36 & s43] We agreed that we would recommend to NHS England that the LPNs be asked to make this an area of their action plan and that you would recommend to LPCs joint working with LMCs in this area. [s36 & s43] This will be discussed further in a teleconference on 2nd May.
- **Participation in an audit** – [s36] we were now looking at a number of alternatives. This will be discussed further by a sub group on 1st May.
- [s36 & s43]

We agreed for all these service development areas, that we would identify any issues that might usefully be considered by the [s36] Once the proposal is in place for this year, then any pointers for the future that may have emerged from our discussions can be considered.

We had a shared hope that the NMS peer review would be released in time to be part of the overall agreement.

[s36 & s43]

Items to be dealt with by the DH and handling of these

We noted that the following items will be separately discussed directly between yourselves and DH:

- [s43]
- [s43]
- [s43]
- [s43]

We agreed to work with NHS England and DH to understand more clearly whether agreement on any of the above items needed to be achieved in the same time frame as our negotiations for 2014/15.

Communications

We are agreed that neither side would comment publicly on content and progress whilst negotiations were active.

[s41]

Future meetings

We look forward to progressing this work further on 1st and 2nd May and the plenary meeting on 15th May. Further meetings will be organised shortly.

Kind regards

Felicity Cox
NHS Employers

FENVAL