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Community Pharmacy IM & T Stakeholder Update

Welcome to the **2nd** Update on Community Pharmacy IM & T developments, to be delivered by the Welsh Assembly **Primary Care IM & T Programme**.

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Special points of interest:

- The 'Pharmacy IM & T Programme' has consulted regularly with its industry-nominated IMT Reference Group for all aspects of its Programme plans
- Stage 1 and 2 activities are now complete and Stage 3 is underway
- The Programme works closely with the BSC for co-ordinating and facilitating its Projects



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Progress with Projects and Workstreams

The Pharmacy IM&T Programme has now completed the first two Stages of its Programme Plan, concluding an intensive period of planning and consultations on three of its main Projects—i.e. Infrastructure (including provision of access to the Welsh NHS Network, known as 'dawn2', and provision of an NHS eMail service), 2D Barcoded Prescriptions and Electronic Transmission of Claims (ETC).

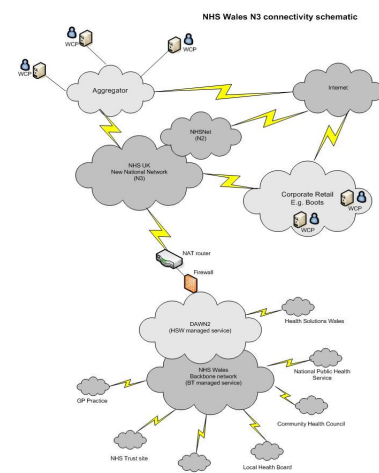
1. Infrastructure Project

Connectivity Plans

Access to 'dawn2' has been at the forefront of activities for the Programme during the last 6 months and the Programme Team has met and consulted with technical and strategic experts of the NHS, Welsh Assembly Government and many of its other key stakeholders.

In August, the Programme Board gave unanimous approval for a Technical Proof of Concept (TPOC) into a specially tailored solution for Connectivity for Welsh Community Pharmacies (WCP) and this is being handled over two stages—firstly, providing an 'approved' managed network connection with an N3-accredited Aggregator or other N3¹-approved corporate network, followed by secure routing of WCP only to NHS Wales resources.

In essence therefore, Welsh Pharmacies will benefit from the same connectivity services of their network provider as their English counterparts, but will **not** link



which is a service available only to England. Instead, it is planned that Welsh Pharmacies will be seamlessly 'routed' onto 'dawn2' and will therefore have access to Welsh intranet resources, such as an NHS Wales eMail service and HOWIS (Health of Wales Information Service). Access to Welsh resources will be subject to sign-up to an Acceptable Use Policy for NHS Wales.

The Programme has now published technical guidance to key stakeholders, illustrating how access to the Welsh DAWN2 Network can be securely achieved in Stage 2 Connectivity plans. In addition, a revised IM & T Allowances Statement for Community Pharmacy Contractors (Wales) will be published in the December 2006 Drug Tariff, which will provide guidance and criteria on IT investment and funding.

eMail

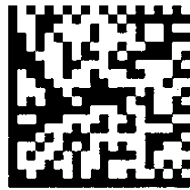
Provision of an eMail service to Community Pharmacies in Wales is also being developed as part of the Infrastructure Project and plans for piloting the applicability and utilisation of eMail services will be carried forward as part of the 'connectivity' work stream (above).

¹ N3 is the acronym of the English NHS Network and N3-accredited Aggregators and other N3-approved providers (Business/Pharmacy Broad-band Providers) must have received approval by 'Connecting for Health' for connecting to the N3 Network.

“...a 2D Barcoded Prescription solution for ETP message capture and generation onto a Welsh prescription form has been developed as a prototype”

2. 'interim' ETP Project (2D Barcoded Prescriptions)

Whilst this Project is not scheduled for implementation until Phase 2 (2007), there have been parallel workstreams into the development of an appropriate solution during the past six months. The Programme Team initially undertook an assessment of viable solutions for Wales and it has



since been agreed by the Board that a **2D Barcoded Prescriptions** solution for data capture and generation onto a Welsh prescription form will be taken forward as its preferred option.

The Programme has developed a 'Technical Proof of Concept' over the last three months which has resulted in a prototype solution being created, successfully proving the concept of the 2D barcode model. This was demonstrated at the Pharmacy IM&T Programme Board in November. Further testing and development work will continue over the following few weeks and it is anticipated that a controlled pilot will be undertaken from early 2007. During this time, a detailed output specification will also be made available to **all** GP and Pharmacy System Suppliers, so that early development work can be commenced.

3. Electronic Transmission of Claims (ETC) Project

During early discussions with colleagues in the Prescribing Services Unit (PSU) of Health Solutions Wales (HSW), it was quickly realised that an ETC service for the pharmacy industry must be advanced as an integral part of existing modernisation initiatives that are already underway in Wales. At present, improved efficiency in prescription pricing and payment processes forms the basis of PSU's own Workflow Improvement Programme (WIP) and it has been agreed that ETC can contribute major efficiency gains, once fully integrated.

Therefore, implementation of ETC will be developed as a 'joint partnership' arrangement with PSU's modernisation programme and timescales will be in line with their own plans. Initial work will centre on a 'scoping exercise' in consultation with key stakeholders, such as CPW, and following this, the design of an electronic claim will be determined in early 2007, as phase one of a two-phased approach to integration.

Other news

Stage 3 will set about early implementation of some of the key milestones and projects, through the extension of respective TPOCs and subsequent controlled pilots. It is anticipated that this will lead to extended pilots over the next few months.

A Welsh Assembly Government letter containing the information from the revised 'IM & T Allowance Statement' for Wales will be circulated to key stakeholders and specific supplementary guidance will also be issued as appropriate.

The national IM & T Programme Board has agreed that the Business Services Centre will assist the Programme in co-ordinating activities for its forthcoming pilots and rollout plans.

The next Programme Board will convene in February 2007 to discuss progress and agree further plans.

Contact Information

Further information about the **Pharmacy IM & T Programme** can be obtained from the Programme Manager, Gary Jones

Direct Line: 01792 607567

eMail: Gary.Jones@PMUW.Wales.NHS.UK

For further information on any aspect of **Primary Care IM & T**, please contact Martin Dickinson, Programme Director

Direct Line: 01792 607564

eMail: Martin.Dickinson@PMUW.Wales.NHS.UK

Updates of information can also be found on the Programme Management Unit's website, on HOWIS. This can be found at: <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/pmuw>

