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Community Pharmacy IM&T Programme: Stakeholder Update

'Pharmacy IM & T Developments in Wales'

Welcome to the first edition of our regular Update on Community Pharmacy IM & T developments, to be delivered by the Welsh Assembly **Primary Care IM & T Programme**.

Inside this issue:

Three Phases for delivery of ETP in Wales	1
Initial Developments	2
Next Stage Plans	2
Contact Us	2

Special points of interest:

- The 'Pharmacy IM & T Programme' is just one Programme of work commissioned by the Welsh Assembly's Primary Care IM & T Team
- The Pharmacy 'Programme Initiation' is now complete and Stage Plans are being agreed
- A 'Reference Group' is being set up by the Programme to assist in stakeholder engagement



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Programme Background

The Welsh Assembly's **Primary Care IM & T Programme** is responsible for delivering the IM & T requirements of all primary care contractors in Wales and in September 2005, a Pharmacy IM & T Programme was established to support the Community Pharmacy Contract through a dedicated Programme Board and Manager.

At its inaugural meeting in November 2005, the Pharmacy IM & T Programme Board agreed the following proposals and recommendations:



1. Delivery of the IM&T component of the Pharmacy Contract to ensure alignment to the overall strategic IM&T direction for Wales, delivered through the 'Informing Healthcare' Programme (IHC)

2. Due to parallel strategic developments within England and Wales in relation to the technical architecture that underpins the 'NHS Care Records Service' (England) and the 'Individual Health Record' (Wales), at present some components of the Pharmacy IM&T solutions accredited for England – specifically the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) – are not applicable to Wales. Therefore, these components may have to be modified or disabled until such time that Wales, via the Pharmacy IM&T Programme Board, has determined appropriate and comparable solutions

3. A pragmatic **three-phased approach** for the delivery of Pharmacy IM&T will now take place, in consideration of the above.

Three-Phased Approach

Phase 1

Phase 1 will focus on **Infrastructure**: incorporating secure access to the NHS Wales 'DAWN2' network, an eMail service for Community Pharmacy plus associated services such as access to HOWIS, eLearning and knowledge bases. This will involve co-ordination and facilitation in areas such as advising Community Pharmacies of their IT security obligations, prior to connectivity. Infrastructure will also look at hardware and software upgrades for Community Pharmacy systems, relevant to Welsh requirements.

Phase 2

Phase 2 will address the deployment of an "interim" **ETP** solution for Wales as its main goal, until a fully integrated Welsh EPS-equivalent has been developed in line with the national IM&T architecture of Informing Healthcare. Phase 2 will be subdivided into key deliverables; for example the 'Electronic *Transfer* of Prescriptions' (ETP) between the GP and the Pharmacy and the 'Electronic *Transmission* of Claims' (ETC) between the Pharmacy and the Payment Authority (HSW).

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Three-Phased Approach.....(continued)

It should be noted that Phase 2 is not dependent on Phase 1 and therefore parallel activities have already commenced to determine an appropriate “interim” ETP solution for Wales. An assessment of UK approaches to ETP has been undertaken and subsequently approved by the Board. This assessment recommended further investigation into the Northern Ireland approach to ETP, utilising 2D bar-code technologies (as illustrated). This will involve a ‘Technical Proof of Concept’ (TPOC) exercise with several pilot sites, to ensure its applicability in Wales.

NB — Please note that the term ‘ETP’ is generic across all the UK nations and describes an ‘electronic transmission of prescriptions’ solution. In Wales alone, the “interim ETP” is the electronic transfer of prescriptions, as prescription data will *not* be transmitted across the NHS in this “interim” solution.

Phase 3

It is envisaged that the implementation of a fully integrated Welsh EPS-equivalent solution will probably commence during 2008. The Welsh EPS will be integral with the National IM & T architecture being developed by the Informing Healthcare Programme, with which the Primary Care IM & T Programme has collaborative links.

Initial Developments

Since its inception, the Programme Board has now met three times and at its last meeting, members agreed to the final amendments for ratifying the Programme Initiation Document (PrID) and also gave authorisation to proceed to Stage 1 of the Programme Plans.

This concluded an intensive period of initial ‘Start-Up’ and ‘Initiation’ activities over the first three months of 2006, which put into place a Programme Mandate, outline Business Case, Programme Brief and initial Programme Plans. With these management documents finalised, the Management Team can now concentrate on delivering some key Programme milestones.

Next Stage Plans

Stage 1 of the Programme (covering the quarter until the end of June 2006) will commence with the following activities and work streams:

- ⇒ Appraising suitable solutions for secure **connectivity** to NHS Wales
- ⇒ Determining hardware and software **IT requirements** of Community Pharmacy
- ⇒ Preliminary discussions regarding an **eMail service** for Community Pharmacy
- ⇒ Commence a ‘Technical Proof of Concept’ (TPOC) Project to prove the viability of the “interim” ETP solution for Wales
- ⇒ Commence an Options Appraisal Exercise for the **ETC Project**, in collaboration with Health Solutions Wales (HSW)
- ⇒ Continued **engagement** with key stakeholders of the Programme, including an initial engagement with a Reference Group of CPW-nominated members.

Contact Information

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