



NHS
WALES
GIG
CYMRU

Community Pharmacy IM & T Stakeholder Update

Welcome to the **3rd** Update on Community Pharmacy IM & T developments, to be delivered by the Welsh Assembly **Primary Care IM & T Programme**.

Updates on Projects

Infrastructure	1
2D Barcoded Prescriptions	2
Electronic Transmission of Claims	2
Contact Us	2

Special points of interest:

- Almost 98% of Welsh Outlets have met the 31st March deadline for placing an order for connectivity.
- Connectivity is split into two 'stages' -
 - Stage 1 is installation and configuration of an 'approved' network
 - Stage 2 is accessing NHS Wales (HOWIS)
- The BSC is managing the reimbursement process on behalf of LHBs



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Projects and Workstreams—Latest Information

The Community Pharmacy IM&T Programme has now completed the first three 'stages' of its projects and workstreams, focusing mainly on the Infrastructure Project but also moving forward the 2D Barcoded Prescriptions Project, now known as the **Welsh "2DRx" Project**.

A brief summary of the Programme's key projects and milestones follows:

1. Infrastructure Project

The Welsh Assembly Government and Community Pharmacy Wales / PSNC have now jointly set criteria around the previous IT allowances of £2,600 paid to all Community Pharmacists, to ensure that investment in Community Pharmacy IM & T is "fit for purpose" and that systems are capable of accessing the NHS Wales network (dawn2), as well as supporting the latest version of System Suppliers' respective PMRs.

In addition, connectivity to 'approved' network providers has now been advanced for all Pharmacy Contractors in Wales, in the following stages:

Connectivity Progress

In the December 2006 Drug Tariff, the Programme published information to the Community Pharmacy industry that all Welsh Contractors must **order** an approved network connection by 31st March 2007. This would ensure Contractors would be *enabled* for accessing the NHS Wales network in the same way as other Primary Care Contractors, such as GPs and become 'networked' members of the wider NHS primary care family of service providers in Wales.

By the deadline date, the Programme has certified that almost 98% of the 708 Contractors currently operating in Wales have met this objective and for the remaining 2%, an 'exceptions handling' process has been put in place.

Installations

Whilst **no** deadline date has been set for ensuring orders are processed by network providers, installation work has already commenced with both the 'corporate' and 'independent' categories and the Programme is working closely with Pharmacy IT leads in both sectors.

Connectivity is being achieved in two stages: installation and configuration of an 'approved' network, followed by secure access to NHS Wales resources (HOWIS).

It is anticipated that the majority of Welsh Community Pharmacies will be connected over the following 6-9 months.

Reimbursement

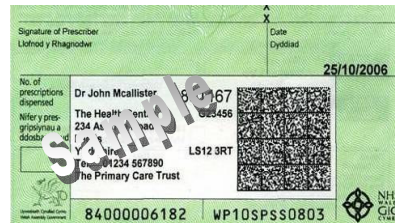
ETP1 Claim Forms are now being received by the Programme and the BSC is undertaking authorisation of the recurring £200 monthly payment triggers to all eligible Contractors, on behalf of their respective Local Health Boards (LHBs).

“...the 2DRx solution has become a joint development between Wales and Northern Ireland”

2. 2DRx Project for Wales

“2DRx” is the new name for the ‘interim ETP Project’ for Wales and refers to the 2D Barcoded Prescriptions solution being advanced by the Programme. During the first three months of 2007, this solution was developed and tested as a prototype and subsequently endorsed further for an internal Programme ‘control trial’ under strictly controlled conditions. This has now been underway since early April using a selected Community Pharmacy and GP site ‘pairing’ in west Wales and the early results are proving very encouraging to all the stakeholders involved.

The control trial seeks to capture the User experience in a live setting and to ensure that the solution is not only technically viable, but also operationally appropriate.



(Figure 2—Sample of 2D Barcode)

In the trial, the GP computer system automatically captures all



(Figure 1—2D Scanner)

the printed information ‘electronically’ within a 2D barcode, which is then embedded at the bottom of the Prescription Form (see Figure 2). The prescription is then taken to the Pharmacy, where the barcode is scanned and which automatically populates the Pharmacy system with the patient, doctor and drug

information, including any dm + d drug codes present. Different barcode scanners will be introduced during the control trial period, which is due to finish at the end of July. This will be followed with a period of evaluation and benefits realisation, which will be presented to the Programme Board with a recommendation for next steps.

The 2DRx solution is now being further advanced in a joint and common approach to 2D barcoded prescriptions, in collaboration with colleagues from the Northern Ireland EPES project. Each nation’s projects are seeking to profit from co-ordinated developments and timescales and Wales will soon issue the Joint Schema (technical specification) document to GP and Pharmacy system suppliers, following the trial evaluation and an internal information governance review.

The Programme will also liaise with suppliers about an appropriate timetable for development and testing, subject to a successful evaluation of the trial.

3. Electronic Transmission of Claims (ETC) Project

Following its latest Programme Board meeting in mid-May, it was agreed that a Scoping Project into Electronic Transmission of Claims (ETC) would commence during the next quarter and the outcome of this exercise would provide the blueprint for developing an ETC solution, appropriate for Wales. Developments of ETC will be co-ordinated with existing modernisation initiatives of the Prescribing Services Unit (PSU) of Health Solutions Wales, which deals with prescription pricing and payments to all Welsh Contractors.

4. Other news

- ⇒ Stage 4 plans will continue with connectivity roll-out to Welsh Contractors, providing them initially with access to NHS Wales intranet resources on the HOWIS (Health of Wales Information System) web portal.
- ⇒ Further developments of connectivity will centre on a pilot exercise into NHS Wales eMail for Welsh Community Pharmacy, which will be followed by an Evaluation Report as to its viability, applicability and utilisation.
- ⇒ The Programme will seek to convene the next meeting of its IM & T Reference Group during the summer.

Contact Information

Further information about the **Community Pharmacy IM & T Programme** can be obtained from the Programme Manager, Gary Jones—eMail: Gary.Jones@PMUW.Wales.NHS.UK

For further information on any aspect of **Primary Care IM & T**, please contact Martin Dickinson, Programme Director—eMail: Martin.Dickinson@PMUW.Wales.NHS.UK

