



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

To :

**All Local Health Boards
& Pharmacy
Contractors in Wales**

3 January 2010

Dear Local Health Board & Pharmacy Contractor,

All Wales Pharmacy Database

As you are aware, a number of NHS bodies currently hold data relevant to service provision for your pharmacy. This results in potential inconsistencies in data versions and duplication in requests to Pharmacy from those bodies. The integrity of the data is currently dependent on each organisation's management of the data.

The Welsh Assembly Government appointed the DSUG (Dispenser Services User Group) to develop and implement a single database for ALL Wales use. This work has been taken forward by an operational subgroup of DSUG. Chaired by the Business Services Centre (BSC), it comprises representatives from all relevant pharmacy stakeholders, including NHS Wales Informatics Service and Community Pharmacy Wales.

The All Wales Pharmacy Database will simplify processes and ensure that there is a single central source of accurate information on community pharmacies in Wales. It will support effective national and local planning of pharmaceutical services, avoid duplication of administration and facilitate improved information to pharmacy contractors and patients.



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Establishing this national database for community pharmacy will: -

- Enable 'live snapshots' of NHS service provision through community pharmacy across Wales and allow NHS Direct Wales to signpost patients to the services you offer.
- Allow consistency and thus support improved content and reporting across Wales
- Reduce confusion by minimising duplication of information requests and administrative burdens to the NHS and pharmacy contractors.
- Support streamlined payments systems for agencies such as BSC, PSU etc.
- Make most effective use of pharmacy IT developments and web-based technology

The All Wales Pharmacy Database will be subject to a restricted access. NHS bodies requiring 'view' access must apply for prior authorisation in writing to BSC. This is to ensure compliance with audit and governance conditions relating to access and use of the data. Pharmacies are only able to view the full information for their own pharmacy.

The database will be available nationally for access by pharmacies in April 2011. Collection of data is currently in test progress in selected pharmacies.

Pharmacies will receive details of the process and access details for their premises at the end of March 2011. The participation of pharmacies in this All Wales database is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Alastair Meredith

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