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PRESS RELEASE FROM COMMUNITY PHARMACY WALES

Community Pharmacy Wales welcomes the new contractual framework to offer an extended range of services

The Chair of Community Pharmacy Wales, Mark Griffiths, today (16th December) has welcomed the substantial reforms to the new community pharmacy contractual framework (CPCF) announced by Welsh Government. Mark Griffiths said *"Community pharmacists have argued for many years that they could make a greater contribution to the needs of NHS Wales and its patient population by delivering a wider range of clinical services."*

"The new framework will see all community pharmacies across Wales adopt a new contractual approach which sets out a collaborative, innovative and progressive approach to the delivery of pharmaceutical care to maximise the impact of community pharmacy teams to meet the needs of the NHS and people in Wales now and for future generations."

Announced by the Health Minister, Eluned Morgan MS, the framework will introduce a national clinical community pharmacy service enabling all pharmacies to deliver provision of contraception, treatment for common minor ailments, and access to repeat medicines in an emergency. The agreement also includes plans to roll out a Wales-wide pharmacy prescribing service which will allow appropriately trained pharmacists to treat an extended range of conditions that currently require people to visit their GP.

The changes will mean patients will have accessible and convenient NHS services closer to home which will in turn free up GP and other NHS services for patients with more complex needs.

Russell Goodway, Chief Executive at Community Pharmacy Wales welcomed the news saying *"The Covid-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated that community pharmacies have a greater role to play in delivering a wider range of services and CPW is delighted to have been able to work collaboratively with Welsh Government, during challenging times, to develop a new contractual framework for community pharmacies in Wales which will make the local pharmacy*

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the first port of call for a range of clinical services dealing with a host of conditions which at the moment require a GP appointment.

"This agreement bodes well for the community pharmacy network across Wales and will avoid the pitfalls facing colleagues in England where funding for community pharmacies has been cut."

The agreement contains wide-ranging reforms to the CPCF, with commitments to clinical service delivery, workforce development, improving quality and safety and integrating community pharmacy more closely within primary care clusters. Importantly the changes are underpinned by significant reform of CPCF funding to incentivise and reward pharmacies that do more of the things the NHS needs.

Initially pharmacist prescribers will be able to prescribe medicines for acute illnesses like urinary tract and upper respiratory tract infections, and also prescribe routine contraception.

Funding will also be available to support for pharmacists undertaking independent prescribing training and pre-registration pharmacy technician training.

Ends

Notes to Editors

For further information on this story please contact Susan Bowen on behalf of Community Pharmacy Wales on susan@camlas.cymru.

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