



Community Pharmacy Scotland response to Health and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament call for views on Legislative Consent Memorandum – Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill

Contact Details

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Who are we?

Community Pharmacy Scotland is the organisation which represents community pharmacy contractor owners in almost every aspect of their working lives, and is the voice of these vital healthcare professionals as they deliver pharmaceutical care to the people of Scotland.

It is empowered to represent the owners of Scotland's 1256 community pharmacies and negotiates on their behalf with the Scottish Government. This covers all matters of terms of service and contractors' NHS service activity including remuneration and reimbursement for the provision of NHS pharmaceutical services.

What do we do?

Community Pharmacy Scotland works with the Scottish Government on the development of new pharmaceutical care services and works to ensure that the framework exists to allow the owners of Scotland's community pharmacies to deliver these services.

The Scottish community pharmacy contract puts the care of the individual right at its centre and with its focus on pharmaceutical care and improving clinical outcomes, community pharmacy contractors and their teams are playing an increasingly important role in maximising therapeutic outcomes and improving medicine safety. Community pharmacy is at the heart of every community and plays an important part in the drive to ensure that the health professions provide the services and care the people of Scotland require and deserve.

Our Response

Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) understands the reasons behind the Health Medical Supplies Bill having previously contributed to views on the [Statutory Scheme consultation](#) last year at a UK level. The output from that consultation is one of the aspects of the overall Bill.

This Bill has important implications on potential drug/medical supplies costs and value to the NHS. In recent times [Audit Scotland](#) has produced information on the increasing drugs costs being borne by NHS Scotland and any Bill that can support value and control costs in a reasonable and proportionate manner is to be welcomed by all who value our NHS.

It makes sense for the four devolved administrations to work collaboratively and CPS agrees that this is a positive development. CPS also agrees that the powers in the Bill are in the best interests of NHS Scotland. This may increase the workload for the devolved administrations in terms of engaging with manufacturers and wholesalers around the new powers that the Bill will bring. I do note however that Scottish Government considers it disproportionate for Scotland to have specific powers across the whole supply chain so any uplift in workload may fall largely in England.

Through our arrangements with the Scottish Government, CPS works in conjunction with the Pharmacy and Medicines Division and the Information Services Division (ISD) to deliver a quarterly drug pricing inquiry survey which then informs the reimbursement arrangements on the purchase of drugs from community pharmacy contractors. This has to be delivered on a devolved basis due to separate contractual and drug tariff arrangements in NHS Scotland. Our understanding after discussions with our civil servant colleagues is that our current methodology is robust and would not require significant change after introduction of this legislation. However CPS is always willing to work collaboratively with the department to ensure the methodology being applied is fair and robust. We would therefore not anticipate the workload for our organisation around this being increased.

CPS understands that not all dispensing contractors are currently required to participate in these inquiry arrangements (e.g. dispensing doctors). This may be something that can be explored to widen the scope of the survey in Scotland.

Overall CPS sees the developments as positive and having little material impact on our members from what is currently experienced.