**Ministers urged to back pharmacies in light of PwC report**

Community pharmacies contributed £3 billion to the NHS, public sector and wider society in England in 2015 through just 12 services, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) study released today. This means that community pharmacies deliver substantially more in benefits than they receive in compensation, providing excellent value to the Department of Health.

The study, which was commissioned by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), analyses the value to the NHS, public sector organisations, patients and wider society of 12 key services provided by community pharmacies. Through the services, which included public health, self-care support and medicines support services, pharmacies made more than 150 million interventions in 2015.

The report concludes that from these services alone, community pharmacy contributed an in-year benefit of £3 billion in 2015, with a further £1.9 billion expected to accrue over the next 20 years.

The benefits of other pharmacy services not covered by the analysis, such as the NHS prescription service, can be seen as additional net benefits of community pharmacy.

The study demonstrates the value of community pharmacies at a crucial time, as the Department of Health considers proposals that could see substantially reduced investment in community pharmacies in the future.

**Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC, said** “PwC’s research shows that community pharmacies punch above their weight in terms of economic value. This is the evidence ministers need to make the case for continued investment in community pharmacies, developing their services even further to bring additional benefits to the NHS and wider society. We look forward to working with ministers to help them consider the implications of the research.

“Community pharmacies already provide services at the heart of their communities which people rely on all over the country. Today’s research shows that those services more than pay their own way. This is an excellent foundation on which to build new services to address England’s growing healthcare challenges.”

**Notes to Editor:**

* The launch of *The Value of Community Pharmacy* will be hosted by PSNC and take place from 8.30-10.00 am on 7th September at Royal Horseguards Hotel, 2 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EJ. Journalists are welcome to attend.
* Copies of the report are available at [psnc.org.uk](http://psnc.org.uk) from 10am on 7th September.
* For further information or interviews please contact Zoe Smeaton (zoe.smeaton@psnc.org.uk 0203 122 0839) or Melinda Mabbutt (melinda.mabbutt@psnc.org.uk 0203 122 0826).

PSNC promotes and supports the interests of all NHS community pharmacies in England. We are recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as the body that represents NHS pharmacy contractors. We work to promote opportunities for the development of community pharmacy services, and negotiate the contractual terms for the provision of NHS community pharmacy services.