**Briefing for GP practices: Patients with asthma – the referral process**

**Suggested points to highlight to GP practices about the referral process for patients with asthma (a Quality Payment criterion of the Quality Payments Scheme)**

* We want to let you know about the process in our pharmacy for referring patients with asthma.
* The Department of Health and Social Care has continued the Quality Payments Scheme which rewards community pharmacy contractors who meet specific criteria.
* One of the Quality Payments criteria is to show evidence of asthma patients, for whom more than six short acting bronchodilator inhalers were dispensed without any corticosteroid inhaler within a six-month period, are referred to an appropriate health care professional for an asthma review.
* We continually review our dispensing processes to highlight any patients who fall into this category.
* We do not envisage that we will identify many such patients, as we feel that either the GP practice team or ourselves would have identified these patients before the six-month period and appropriate action would already have been taken.
* However, if we do come across any patients, we wanted to make you aware that, with patient consent, we would be referring these patients to the GP practice as they may benefit from an asthma review.
* Before a referral is made we will carry out an inhaler technique check and, if appropriate, a Medicines Use Review. We will notify you on the referral form, if we have carried out either or both. Is there any other information you would like us to provide on the referral form?
* We can send the referral form via **[PharmOutcomes, NHSmail, post, fax (if the receiving fax machine is a safe haven fax) or hand deliver when we collect prescriptions – delete as appropriate].** We would like to ensure you receive the referral form in the most convenient way for the practice, therefore please could you advise how you would like to receive the referrals?
* If you have any questions on this referral process, please do not hesitate to contact **[insert name of pharmacy manager]** on **[insert phone number].** Further information on the Quality Payments Scheme can be found at: [psnc.org.uk/quality](http://www.psnc.org.uk/quality)