

Infrastructure Project for Community Pharmacy – Oct '08

This is one of a series of fact sheets written for Welsh community pharmacies about IT developments in Wales

As part of the agreement for introducing the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework in April 2005, the PSNC, Department of Health (England) and Welsh Assembly Government (Wales) agreed that an IM&T funding allowance would be paid to English and Welsh community pharmacy contractors, to invest in their basic IT infrastructure.

Therefore, in December 2005 and February 2006, two separate payments of £1,300 per contractor were paid to all English and Welsh contractors towards the costs of replacing or upgrading IT hardware in community pharmacies, followed by an additional payment of £1,000 towards the costs of Phase 2 work streams.

Full details were published in the Drug Tariff, but in summary, for Wales, Phase 2 focused on the ETP and ETC requirements of the Contract.

In addition, a recurring monthly payment of £200 was provided for those contractors who were set up with their NHS-approved managed networks, enabled for connecting to the NHS Wales network.

FAQs (Frequently asked Questions)

What IT hardware should I invest in?

Contractors have been advised that investment in IT hardware must be 'fit for purpose' and capable of running the latest version of their chosen PMR, as well as supporting secure / managed connectivity enabled for accessing NHS Wales intranet and services (Phase 1 funding).

Where should I purchase this hardware from?

Contractors are advised that their system supplier must either provide or at least approve any investment in IT, to ensure it is configured correctly for supporting the PMR as well as the NHS Phase 1 requirements listed.



When should I be thinking of spending the £1,000 allowance?

This allowance is linked to system supplier developments for ETP and ETC in Wales. Specifically, for the 2DRx system being developed, the £1,000 will be towards the cost of a 2D barcode scanner and it is expected that this will be provided by your system supplier and invoiced to you.

How do I know if my current IT hardware is acceptable?

Your system should already be capable of supporting managed network connectivity to the NHS Wales network. For Phase 2 requirements (as part of the pre-live requirements of the Welsh ETP system, known as 2DRx), it is expected that your system supplier will be asked to arrange a site visit to check your hardware and operating system.