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PRACTICE & QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT  
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Dear Ms McGinty

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is the professional and self-regulatory body for pharmacists in Great Britain. The Society's functions include: maintaining the register of pharmacists and pharmacies; regular inspection of pharmacies to monitor standards of practice and compliance with legal and professional requirements; accrediting undergraduate pharmacy degree courses; ensuring fitness to practise at the point of registration; promoting continuing education; producing clinical audit tools for pharmacy practice and tools to support uni- and multiprofessional clinical governance. The Society also produces a Code of Ethics containing standards governing the conduct and practice of pharmacists.

On first reading this document the implementation plan does seem to have a lot of detail, however some of the dates have already passed and we are not sure if all the relevant work has been achieved.

It is very difficult to give a view on the document as there has been such secrecy surrounding the negotiations for this contract. Many people who expect to be involved in the implementation of the contract have still not received details of what the contract will be in terms of service specifications and standards.

The PCT's are under significant pressure and whilst a plan is required for the successful implementation of the contract it is also important to ensure that the relevant resources are made available to achieve the timelines. The level of resources that the DOH is proposing to make available will need to be taken into consideration when considering whether this is a realistic implementation plan.

Sue Kilby  
Head of Practice