

28th July 2016

Derbyshire LPC Policy Statement

VIA EMAIL

The NHS sees the Pharmacist as a "major untapped resource" and acknowledges that we will be responsible for a "seismic shift in the way health care is delivered". Make no mistake community pharmacy faces the biggest challenge since its inception and if appointed as an the LPC I will ensure the voice of the local independent contractor will be heard loud and clear.

In summary, my positions on the important issues facing our profession are:

1. We need to safeguard the interests of most vulnerable of our profession, which means the small independent.
2. We need all pharmacies to offer services matched by the best and to ensure no one gets left behind
3. I believe that we can no longer continue to accept new roles and additional work without additional increases in our global sum.
4. We must take advantage of the predatory and financially motivated medical profession at present to enhance our professional status.
5. We must get firm commitments from the our commissioners that in return for a positive contribution by the Pharmacy profession there will be additional monies / streams of income / or a percentage of cost savings added to our global sum / remuneration.
6. One of the biggest threats to our profession is the tendering of advanced and enhanced services and we need to insure independent pharmacists are not left out of the loop.

I will now introduce myself and elaborate on the above:

My name is Raj Morjaria and I have been a Pharmacist contractor for the past 26 years. I am a member of the LPC in North Staffordshire and was the PSNC Regional Rep for the W. Midlands for the past five years.

I now know the politics of the PSNC and work hard for independent contractors even if that made me unpopular with some of the other members. I, together with my allies have managed to get a lot of bug bare issues on the agenda and will carry on pushing for a better and a fairer deal for the independent contractor at every opportunity.

I am an independent pharmacy contactor have several Pharmacies. One of my Pharmacies is an Essential Small Pharmacy and now referred to as an LPS contracted Pharmacy, the rest are average and one that would be classed as "large", and hence I can represent the views of most local contractors. I have no shareholders or area managers to answer to and In short I don't have to champion the company line especially where this is in conflict with the interests of the local contractors.

I do however want a fair deal for our profession and would ensure that local contractors do not get left behind especially the small independents. The small independent sector will be entry point for Pharmacists who aspire to own their own Pharmacy. I do not work for a company that has forced us to promote medicines like toiletries the "buy one get one free brigade" or shown Pharmacists to be no more than a home delivery service with the

Pharmacist being looked upon as a shopkeeper rather than a highly qualified health care professional.

I want every Pharmacy to offer a high quality service with a fair reimbursement. Being a contractor rather than a company representative. I am better placed to advise on the "bigger picture & vision of Pharmacy" and the best ways to achieve this. One vision being that all Pharmacies in our region matching services offered by the best. I would endeavour to and ensure that accreditation will be locally delivered via the commissioners and available to ALL contractors as opposed to the multiple's approach which would use its head office staff and internal trainers to accredit its employees and hence the accreditation of the rest would not be a priority.

The Government dangles a carrot to the profession knowing that it will be accepted and if not accepted then imposed. The fact is that the carrot is not a new carrot or a growing carrot or a carrot that's kept pace with inflation, but the same carrot with its contour redefined. In my opinion we should not accept new roles and additional work funded from the existing global sum while the medical profession is funded for expensive equipment, premises improvements, staff costs and most worrying allowed to control funds for providing services.

The medical profession is becoming more predatory and recent developments indicate that the profession more motivated by money then by concern for the health of the public. We as a profession must take advantage of this situation and use it to enhance our professional status. However we must keep their activities in check and ensure that the pharmacist's role and the pharmacy global sum are protected. I am off course referring to the tendering of advanced and enhanced services, which I consider to be the biggest threat to the profession to date. In simplistic terms, the medical profession controls funds for providing services and then says it can provide those services. This could result in funding taken away from pharmacists. Services under threat include smoking cessation, emergency hormonal contraception, domiciliary visiting minor ailments and others all being redirected to nurses within surgeries.

The PSNC, our negotiators with the government must I believe get firm commitments that in return for a positive contribution towards a better and more cost effective patient care, there will be additional monies or a percentage of the savings ADDED to our global sum.

I was an integral part of the PSNC for over five years and am familiar with its role and activities. I am fully aware of our complex NHS contract and the impact on individual contractors when changes are made to it or its being manipulated for gain of individual sectors.

I have several contracts won by the tendering process and am happy to share my experience with the LPC and contractors of Derbyshire.

Sincerely yours,

R. Morjaria M.R.Pharm.Soc.