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19 March 2007

Dear Colleague

**Re: West Hertfordshire Medicines Management Committee**

In West Hertfordshire enormous health economy benefits have been gained from the work undertaken by the Medicines Management Committee. The committee was effective because it brought together primary and secondary care, including community and hospital clinicians, who were able to make joint and binding decisions on the use of medicines in West Herts. Specifically, by working in partnership, it took into account the needs of primary care and acute trusts. The decisions were respected in primary care as due processes were followed.

The Hertfordshire PCTs are keen to ensure that the principles set up by such joint working are followed across Hertfordshire and that health gains from the use of medicines are maximised. Under the new structure proposed by Hertfordshire PCTs (see enclosure) this group will make clinical recommendation which will be ratified by Hertfordshire MMC to ensure consistency and value-for-money across the county.

I have been asked by Mike Edwards (Chair of the West Hertfordshire PCT Professional Executive Committee) to lead, facilitate and embed a new group which aims to achieve the following within West Hertfordshire:-

- Advice on place in therapy of new drugs, new uses of existing drugs and new evidence on drugs that will impact on both primary and secondary care;
- Development of a joint formulary acceptable to practice-based commissioners that is aimed at all prescribers in the health system both community and hospital based.
- Identification of areas of financial recovery;
- Establish and maintain a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of these agreements.

I understand that the existing committee is having its final meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March in Hemel Hempstead and I will be looking to establishing the first meeting of the new group as soon as possible, preferably in April. I appreciate that this is short notice. I will ask Liz Goodwin to provide a selection of days and dates so that we can plan meetings for the whole year. I am on holiday until the end of March but do feel free to email me if you want to discuss this letter further.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Nick Brown**  
**PEC GP, West Hertfordshire PCT**

cc: Graham Ramsay, (West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust),  
Michael Edwards (PEC Chair, West Hertfordshire PCT)