

The Role of the PCN Community Pharmacy Lead – COMPETITION LAW

The role of the PCN Community Pharmacy Lead (representative) is to be a conduit through which to encourage NHS community pharmacies in the PCN to collaborate and work together and to engage effectively with PCNs, while assisting contractors to meet the PCN-focused requirements of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS).

The PCN Community Pharmacy Lead has an important role in shaping the relationships between pharmacies in the PCN and will:

- provide a single channel of engagement with the PCN leadership and building collaborative working relationships with relevant PCN members; and
- identify opportunities for pharmacies in the PCN area and highlight to CPWY to develop community pharmacy service proposals to meet local population health needs.

As the nominated PCN Community Pharmacy Lead you need to be mindful of competition law. Competition law concerns could arise should any commercially sensitive information be disclosed, discussed or agreed at any meeting, either a PCN meeting or a discussion with other pharmacy contractors within the PCN.

To avoid any competition law concerns, PCN CP Leads should take care in any discussions with other participants who are or who may become competitors to ensure that there is no collusion with regard to the provision or pricing of pharmacy or other services. For example, it is not appropriate and would be viewed as anti-competitive to agree between pharmacies within the PCN to charge the same for a service, such as delivery of medicines, or to agree to stop providing non-Equality Act MCAs.