

New on-line pharmacy catalogue will deliver significant cost savings

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) have just launched their new on-line pharmacy contract catalogue which will be used by staff in pharmacy departments at hospital trusts all over England. The catalogue holds data on approximately 20,000 medicines and pharmaceutical products including information on suppliers, contracts, prices, terms and contract start and end dates. Each user within a trust is assigned a log in and the information they can view is limited to contracts negotiated on behalf of their regional health care trusts.

The on-line catalogue replaces the CD versions which were previously distributed on a monthly basis which were also produced by PDMS. By replacing the CD's with a new web based system, NHS PASA will not only make significant savings on production and distribution costs but also be able to update the catalogue more quickly and more frequently.

The on-line system also has several new features including storage of 12 months history of contract prices and displays pending price increases, decreases or changes to terms for each product. This enables pharmacy staff to make more informed purchasing decisions and potentially make considerable savings to NHS spending.

PDMS worked closely with the team at NHS PASA to deliver the project on time and to budget. By using their tried and tested .Net based " Foundations TM " platform and components, PDMS were able to develop, test and implement the Pharmacy System in under 14 weeks.