

## CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED CODE OF ETHICS (PARTS 2 - 5) FOR PHARMACISTS

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is carrying out a review of Parts 2-5 of the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists.

This Code is a very important document for every pharmacist and in the future, your conduct, performance and practice may be judged against its principles and obligations.

The Code of Ethics from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has been used as a template and modified following pre-consultation with a local stakeholder group. PSNI is now seeking the views of those who will be affected by, and with most to contribute to the Code under development. This formal consultation is your unique opportunity to feedback and influence the Code's content.

In keeping with other health regulators it is proposed that the revised Code should provide a broad framework of ethical principles within which the whole profession should operate, rather than a prescriptive set of rules and procedures.

It is therefore proposed that the revised Code should:

- Be based on eight over-arching *principles* and more detailed *obligations* that will inform the conduct, performance and practice of pharmacists and will be applicable to all sectors of the profession, irrespective of whether the registrant is involved directly in patient care,
- Be designed to promote and support a culture of quality practice and care, accountability and professional judgement,
- Act as the core document from which further standards and guidance can be developed, and
- Be public-facing and place patient care at the centre of modern pharmacy practice.

Unlike previous versions of the Code, detailed guidance will be produced as supporting documents. There will be an opportunity to comment on these documents in due course as part of further consultations later this year.

It is intended that the Code and supporting guidance will come into force mid-2009.

An *8-week* consultation on the Code will **commence 11 August 2008 and complete 6 October 2008**.

The revised Code of Ethics for Pharmacists is available to download from the Society's website [www.psni.org.uk](http://www.psni.org.uk). The PSNI would welcome your views on the proposed Code.

There are two ways of responding:

### **On-line**

Responses can be submitted using the on-line questionnaire.

### **By Post**

Complete the questionnaire and send to: **Code of Ethics Consultation, PSNI, 73 University Street, BELFAST, BT 7 1HL**

Hard copies are available upon request, by writing to the above address.

If you would like further information contact Michelle McCorry, Specialist Pharmacist (tel 028 9026 7943; email [michelle.mccorry@psni.org.uk](mailto:michelle.mccorry@psni.org.uk)).