

**Question 1**

*Do you agree that Professional standards for the sale and supply of medicines should be amended to allow medicines to be de-blistered in advance of dispensing for an individual patient?*

**Yes** No Not Sure

*Please explain your answer:*

Robotic technology in the dispensary has now evolved to such an extent that it is now reasonable to consider amending Professional standards in relation to de-blistering to accommodate the automation process.

However, separate consideration should be given to how amended professional standards on de-blistering will apply to Monitored Dosage Systems and the utilisation of medicines compliance aids more generally.

**Question 2**

*Should the de-blistering of medicines in advance of dispensing for an individual patient be permitted only in certain circumstances?*

**Yes** No Not Sure

*Please explain your answer:*

De-blistering of medicines in advance of dispensing for an individual patient should only be permitted in robotic dispensaries. This is only reasonable where the medicines will be dispensed within finite defined timeframes with no compromise to integrity of the formulation.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics states that certain medications should not be placed in monitored dosage systems, including effervescent tablets, dispersible tablets, buccal tablets, sublingual tablets and significantly hygroscopic preparations. The PSNI recommend that such medications continue to be excluded from MDS systems.

### **Question 3**

*If the standard were to be amended what further guidance should the Society provide?*

*Please give details:*

Operatives of robotic dispensaries that conduct de-blistering, must have SOPs detailing the requirements for the system operation and further detailing how they meet the manufacturers guidance in relation to storage and expiry.

### **Further comments**

*Please let us have any further comments about this proposed amendment*

*Comments:*

Amendment to Professional Standards and guidance in this area should be reviewed regularly within defined periods of time to ensure continued high standards of public protection.

The Society recommend the RPSGB team reviewing the scope of current professional standards and guidance on de-blistering give consideration to issues of product liability if a patient experiences a problem with an automatically dispensed medicine, and the liabilities upon the manufacturer of automated dispensing machines if problems occur.