



**Thursday 11/06/2009**

## **Minister launches New Code of Ethics for Pharmacists In Northern Ireland**

The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Michael McGimpsey today helped launch a new Code of Ethics for Pharmacists in Northern Ireland.

The Code of Ethics sets out 8 fundamental principles of practice to which all pharmacists are expected to abide by as a condition of professional registration with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

Welcoming the publication of the new Code, the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Michael McGimpsey said: "Pharmacists have a vital role to play in providing quality healthcare within the Health and Social Care Sector. They are very often the first point of contact for people needing treatment or advice so it is essential that people feel they can put their trust in the service they are receiving.

The critical nature of medicines use demands that those overseeing them are subject to the highest standards of professional integrity and practice. I therefore welcome the new Code of Ethics from the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland as providing the reference point for pharmacists and, indeed, what the public can expect from this health professional group."

Raymond Anderson, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland added: "The new Code of Ethics gives pharmacists in Northern Ireland a clear set of ethics and standards to operate to. As the pharmacy profession develops and takes on more clinical roles it is important that Standards and Ethics keep pace. That's why we've issued this new Code of Ethics to all pharmacists and will continue making the public aware of what to expect from their pharmacist."

Baroness Jill Pitkeathley, Chair of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence stated: "I welcome the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's new Code of Ethics. Putting patient safety at the heart of regulation is a priority for all of us."

**ENDS**

For further information please contact Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs at the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, on 028 90 326 927 or 07854 004 884 [mark.neale@psni.org.uk](mailto:mark.neale@psni.org.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Launch of the new Code of Ethics for Pharmacists in Northern Ireland will take place from 11.00am on Thursday 11 June in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast. **Journalists are invited to attend.** Please RSVP with Mark Neale beforehand.
2. Raymond Anderson, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, and Michelle McCorry, Project leader of the Code of Ethics Review, will be available for interviews pre and post launch. Please contact Mark Neale as listed above.
3. Photographs will be available on request from Mark Neale following the launch.
4. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is the regulatory body for pharmacy in Northern Ireland. Its principal objective is the protection of patient safety in the provision of pharmacy services in Northern Ireland.
5. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is dedicated to the protection of the public in pharmacy services. It achieves this by registering all practicing pharmacists in Northern Ireland and requiring that they abide by a Code of Ethics. To ensure the Code is kept up to date and relevant to the changing practice of pharmacy it is reviewed on a regular basis.
6. The 8 core principles of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics are:
  - i. Make the safety and welfare of your patients your prime concern
  - ii. Respect and protect confidential information
  - iii. Show respect for others
  - iv. Exercise professional judgement in the interests of patients and the public
  - v. Encourage patients (and/or their carers as appropriate) to participate in decisions about their care
  - vi. Maintain and develop professional knowledge and competence
  - vii. Act with honesty and integrity
  - viii. Provide a high standard of practice and care at all times
7. Alongside the Code of Ethics, 7 practice-specific Standards and Guidance documents were launched today. They are:
  - i. Professional standards and guidance for patient consent
  - ii. Professional standards and guidance for patient confidentiality
  - iii. Professional standards and guidance for the sale and supply of medicines
  - iv. Professional standards and guidance for advertising medicines and professional services
  - v. Professional standards and guidance for internet pharmacy services
  - vi. Professional standards and guidance for pharmacist prescribers
  - vii. Professional guidance for raising concerns
8. More information about the Code of Ethics and Accompanying Standards and Guidance is available on the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's website:  
<http://www.psni.org.uk/professionals/code-of-ethics.php>