



Post Registration Facilitator Dr Deirdre McAree introduces an important new change to CPD recording — a public safety feature.

A new feature has been added to the online CPD record keeping system. This has been introduced to coincide with the start of the new CPD year i.e. 1 June 2009.

Each time a pharmacist creates a new cycle, certain information is added such as a cycle number and title. A new drop-down menu has been added to capture whether the pharmacist believes the CPD undertaken and documented in the cycle has a relationship with public safety.

We have already received feedback from some registrants who noticed the new feature and they have indicated that it only takes a few seconds to choose a category.

Public Safety and Continuing Professional Development

The aim was to capture the information but with as little impact on registrants in terms of time commitment as possible.

When documenting CPD, pharmacists choose a variety of subjects and this further varies according to the role they perform in their professional careers.

There are seven categories to choose from (see screenshot from website). If the “other” category is chosen you will be asked to explain in a few words, how you categorise the cycle.

If you think there is no relationship to public safety, you may choose this option.

CPD facilitation Service

CPD facilitators are available to provide feedback on samples of your cycles.

Pharmacists have used the service over a number of years now,

and the feedback has been positive.

I recently received the following comment from one registrant
“Thank you for putting me in touch so promptly with xxxxxx. She was such a helpful lady, and through constructive comments, made the whole CPD process a million times easier, and even quite straight forward!”

This is what the facilitation network exists for and I encourage pharmacists with queries or difficulties to make use of it.

Cycle 5 - Testing Patient Safety

A new element of online CPD recording asks pharmacists to record the relationship of the cycle to patient safety.

Summary of Council Meetings held between April and June 2009

April 2009

Council approved the nomination of Professor Gerry Linden from the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences at Queen’s University as a member of Council.

Council accepted the letter of resignation from Council of Mrs Marie Smith acknowledging her efforts and dedication to the role.

Delegates to attend meetings of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in an observer capacity were agreed.

May 2009

Council discussed modernization of the statutory framework for pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland including the construction of a new Governing Council and Fitness to Practise powers.

Council co-opted Professor Paul McCarron of the University of Ulster.

Council agreed to hold an EGM to propose updated bye-laws.

Council accepted Responsible Pharmacist Standards and Guidelines

June 2009

Council reviewed proposals for the future of the Benevolent Fund and a suggested consultation document.

A draft proposal for a professional forum for Northern Ireland pharmacists was put before Council. The resulting discussion was to inform the final draft.

Reviewing legislation development, Council approved competence based selection for the new Council after the transition period.