

## Spotlight on CPD and Patient Safety at CHRE Public Engagement Event in Belfast

In March 2010, Dr. Deirdre McAree, Post-Registration Facilitator, gave a presentation on Continuing Professional Development requirements for pharmacists in Northern Ireland to an audience of public and patient group at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. The presentation was at the invitation of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) as part of a series of UK-wide events intended to engage the public in health professional regulation.

The presentation focused on findings from the past three years of assessing registrants' CPD portfolios. 1163 full CPD portfolios have now been assessed since 2005.

One area of CPD the CHRE were keen to explore was its relationship with patient safety. In 2009 the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland introduced a new feature to the online cycle recording mechanism, requesting registrants

record the relationship between the learning cycle being described, and patient and public safety. Six categories of patient safety are offered for pharmacists to select and pharmacists choose which one best fits the cycle they have documented. If there is "no relationship" to patient/public safety, this option can be selected.

Once 2009/10 CPD portfolios are selected for assessment (1 June 2010), full evaluation of the data provided as a result of this new intervention will be possible. However, a snap-shot of cycles within the CPD online system in March 2010 showed that relatively few CPD cycles were deemed by pharmacists to have no relationship with patient and public safety (3.6%). It was helpful to have this

information to share with the public in order to illustrate the types of educational activity pharmacists typically record as part of their CPD.

### **CPD record keeping format**

Registrants are reminded that the preferred format for submitting CPD portfolios is online recording. This is accessed at [www.nicpld.org](http://www.nicpld.org)

### **Cycle 1 - Changes to emergency supply regulations**

The screenshot shows a web-based form for recording a CPD cycle. At the top, there are tabs for 'Cycle Info', 'Reflection', 'Planning', 'Action', and 'Evaluation', with 'Action' selected. A 'Print Cycle Summary' link is visible. The form contains the following fields:

- Cycle Number:** 1
- Name of Entry:** Changes to emergency supply regulations
- Type of Learning:** Unscheduled
- Status:** Incomplete
- Add to portfolio period:** June 09/10
- Relationship of cycle to public/patient safety:** Knowledge of legislation
- Time Taken:** 0 hours 30 minutes

**A recent snapshot of CPD records submitted online suggests over 96% have a relationship to public safety.**

## Research Commissioned into Revalidation and Risk for Pharmacy Practice in Northern Ireland

The Government White Paper on the future of health professional regulation, "Trust, Assurance and Safety" (February 2007), called for systems of periodic revalidation to be introduced for all regulated health professionals. To this end, initial proposals for such a system were developed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland in February 2009 and submitted to the Department of

Health (London). See March 2009 newsletter for more details.

The next stage in the process for the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is to commission research to bring insight into the varying levels of risk across practice in Northern Ireland, both within HPSS services and all other areas involving pharmacist practitioners. An invitation to tender

was issued in March 2010 and bids have now been received. It is anticipated that the successful research organisation will be announced in early May with a final report produced by November 2010.

Registrants will be kept informed of further developments in relation to revalidation proposals in future editions of this newsletter.