Tuesday 26th January 2010

Northern Ireland Pharmacy Premises to meet new Standards

Community pharmacy premises in Northern Ireland must now meet new levels of quality and public accessibility following the publication of Premises Standards by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, the regulatory body for pharmacy.

The Premises Standards were developed with input from professional and public groups and set out a checklist of compliance requirements including:

- Entrances to pharmacies must be accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair users and pushchairs;
- Pharmacies should be clean, tidy and uncluttered;
- Adequate seating should be available for customers within a pharmacy;
- All pharmacies must operate recorded procedures to be followed if a complaint is made about the pharmacy business or any member of its staff.

Commenting on the new Standards, Ms Ann Bowen, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland said:

“Public satisfaction with pharmacy services is already high but that is not cause to rest upon laurels. These new standards reflect the continually improving nature of services provided by pharmacies to patients and the public.”

Mr Brendan Kerr, Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland said:

“‘The pharmacy premises standards provide an easy-to-use audit tool for owners and superintendents to check if a pharmacy is compliant with the standards expected by the regulator.’

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
NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is the regulatory and professional body for pharmacy in Northern Ireland. Its principal objective is the protection of patient safety in the provision of pharmacy services in Northern Ireland. It also seeks to develop the pharmacy profession in the public interest.

2. Ms Ann Bowen (or another spokesperson from the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland) may be available for interview throughout Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th January. Contact should be made with Mark Neale in the first instance on 02890 326 927 or 07854 004 884 to arrange this.

3. Effective from 1 February 2010, the Premises Standards (Community) are available to view online here:


4. Cllr Jim Wells MLA (centre), Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee, launches the Community Pharmacy Premises Standards with Ms Ann Bowen (right), President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, and Mr Brendan Kerr (left), Registrar.