

26th September 2011

Registrar Reminder Notice: Controlled Access to Dispensaries

Dear Pharmacist

A number of issues have arisen this year in relation to complaints from members of the public regarding the governance arrangements in the dispensing area of a pharmacy.

In the most recent case, in September 2011 a patient's representative expressed grave concern about the presence of a young child in a community pharmacy dispensary.

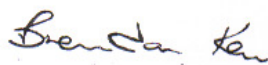
This action, if true, represents an unacceptable level of risk to the child. A dispensary is a highly unsuitable environment for any unauthorised person, but especially for young children. This is unfortunately not the first occasion in which a concern has been identified to the Pharmaceutical Society regarding children in dispensaries.

It should also be noted that since October 2009, the **Responsible Pharmacist** is legally accountable for the safe and effective running of the pharmacy and there is a personal accountability on that pharmacist for risk assessment, safety and good governance in the workplace.

Finally, I wish to remind pharmacists that the first requirement of the Dispensing Area section of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Community Pharmacy Premises Standards is that "*Access to the Dispensing Area is strictly controlled*¹".

All pharmacists are hereby reminded of the need for good governance and access control in relation to the dispensing area of any pharmacy within which they work.

Yours sincerely



Mr Brendan Kerr MPS
Registrar and Head of Regulatory Services

¹ <http://www.psni.org.uk/professionals/code-of-ethics.php>