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23 October 2012

Dear consultee,

Draft Standards and Guidance for Pharmacist Prescribers 2012

I am writing to invite you to respond to a consultation we have launched today on the 'Draft Standards and Guidance for pharmacist prescribers'.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland *Standards and Guidance for Pharmacist Prescribers*, which have been in place since 2009, have now been revised and we would welcome your views on the updated document.

There are currently 136 independent pharmacist prescribers registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

Pharmacists gained the right to achieve supplementary prescribing status in 2003 and independent prescribing status in 2006. Legislation allows qualified pharmacist supplementary prescribers to prescribe any medicine, including controlled drugs, for any medical condition within their competence.

Extending prescribing responsibilities to pharmacists introduces opportunities to make better use of the skills and expertise of pharmacists, increases patient choice in accessing medicines, and contribute to the introduction of more flexible team working across the health service.

The revised standards and guidance provide more detailed information in relation to specific areas of practice such as, the new guidance on mixing medicines and is also compliant with legislative changes in the UK and Northern Ireland.

Recent changes to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 now allows pharmacists, who have successfully completed a pharmacist independent prescribing course and accredited by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, to prescribe, administer and direct others to administer any controlled drugs in Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 5 for any medical condition – with the exception of cocaine, dipipanone and diamorphine for the treatment of addiction.

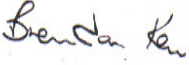
Consultation process

The full document and supplementary questionnaire can be accessed online on the Pharmaceutical Society NI website: www.psn.org.uk.

Responses should preferably be returned electronically to Michelle McCorry, michelle.mccorry@psni.org.uk by 18 December 2012.

I look forward to your views on the Draft Standards and Guidance for Pharmacist Prescribers.

Yours sincerely,



Brendan Kerr
Registrar