

OUTCOME OF FITNESS TO PRACTISE HEARING

Case Number	2011/02
Name	Mr William Greer
Registration Number	4076
Date of Hearing	27 th and 28 th January 2011
The Notice of Allegation	<p>It was alleged that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That on various dates on or between 2nd February 2009 and 29th April 2009, whilst working as a Pharmacy Cluster Manager at Lloyds Pharmacy, 1 Meeting Street, Magherafelt, he dispensed Prescription Only Medicines to vulnerable adults, who were residents of Hollybank Supported Living, other than in accordance with a prescription in contravention of Section 58 of the Medicines Act 1968. 2. Over the period of approximately 3 months, identified above, he: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. failed on various occasions to ensure that he had in his possession any valid prescription prior to dispensing prescription only medicines; b. prepared and supplied, or supervised the preparation and supply of, monitored dosage trays on at least 5 occasions to residents of Hollybank with prescription only medicines without any, or any appropriate, contact with the prescriber; c. caused, allowed or permitted the supply of prescription only medicines without there being a valid prescription when it ought to have been clear to him that relevant prescriptions had not been seen by any of the staff in the Pharmacy d. failed to take any, or any adequate, steps to ensure that dispensing systems and practices put in place by another pharmacist were appropriate and lawful e. failed to follow the Pharmacy's established Standard Operating Procedures f. caused, allowed or permitted prescription only medicines to be supplied to residents of Hollybank which were incorrectly labeled. 3. That as a result of the matters alleged at 1 and 2 above, whether taken individually or cumulatively, he created a risk to patient safety.

	<p>4 He failed to comply with the following principles and associated obligations of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics and Practice;</p> <p>4.1 Principle 1 – A pharmacist's prime concern must be for the welfare of both the patient and other members of the public.</p> <p>4.2. Principle 2 – A pharmacist must uphold the honour and dignity of the profession and not engage in any activity which may bring the profession into disrepute.</p> <p>4.3. Principle 3 - A pharmacist must at all times have regard to the laws and regulations applicable to a pharmaceutical practice and maintain a high standard of professional conduct. A pharmacist must avoid any act or omission which would impair confidence in the pharmaceutical profession. When a pharmaceutical service is provided, a pharmacist must ensure that it is efficient.</p> <p>4.4. Principle 9: A pharmacist must at all times endeavour to co-operate with professional colleagues and members of other health professions so that patients and the public may benefit.</p> <p>5 By his acts or omissions he had (a) brought the profession into disrepute, (b) failed, on a professional basis, to observe the principles set out above and (c) undermined public confidence in the profession.</p>
<p>Determination</p>	<p>The Committee determined the following:</p> <p>That the case amounted to misconduct which impacts on his fitness to practise as a pharmacist.</p> <p>The chairman listed the mitigating factors of the case which were considered to be:</p> <p>(a) The fact that he reported the matter when he finally uncovered what was happening;</p> <p>(b) The fact that there was no actual harm to patients.</p> <p>The chairman then listed the aggravating features of the case were considered to be:</p> <p>(a) The vulnerability of the patients.</p> <p>(b) That Mr Greer was the pharmacist in charge.</p> <p>(c) That there was a risk of harm though no evidence of actual harm.</p>

	The decision of the committee was that Mr Greer had admitted misconduct however, while deserving of censure by the committee, it did not necessitate removal from the register and accordingly Mr Greer was not to be removed from the register
Time Scale for Enactment	Immediate
Chair of Committee	Mr Tim Ferris QC
Members of the Fitness to Practise Committee	Mr Tim Ferris QC (in the chair) Dr Terence Maguire Mr Roy Junkin Ms Miriam Karp
Society Counsel	Mr John Paul Shields, instructed by Aaron Moore (Cleverly Fulton Rankin)
Registrant Counsel	Mr R Millar, instructed by Ms Leigh Linton (Carson McDowell)
Clerk of Committee	Mr Brendan Kerr