

## Welcome to update



Welcome to the fourth edition of our regulatory update in 2016.

In this edition Dr Jim Livingstone, President of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI, provides a short review of 2016 and looks forward to the regulatory challenges and opportunities of 2017. We look at the outcomes of the audit of CPD portfolios and provide you with further tips and advice on how to produce a successful CPD portfolio. We also provide a comprehensive update for Pre-registration trainees and tutors and bring to your attention our current consultation on proposed Regulations concerning the annotation of pharmacist prescribers on the Register. Finally we take this opportunity to remind pharmacists of the duty to support patients to make informed choices about where they access services.

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### **Review previous editions**

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## 2016 President's Review

As we approach the end of 2016, health and social care services continue to face much change and many new challenges, with the pharmacy profession continuing to play its key role in delivering high quality services to the people of Northern Ireland. The recent launch of the Minister for Health's Vision 2026 presents an exciting and increasingly core role for pharmacists in the future. As the Regulator for the pharmacy profession, this will clearly require us to maintain our core focus on public protection, whilst ensuring at the same time that regulation is flexible, fair and proportionate enough not to stand in the way of innovation and the delivery of high quality of service. In so doing we seek to uphold the excellent reputation of the profession.

This past year has, as usual, been a busy one for us as a Regulator with many important developments. A major event was the launch of [The Code](#) in February 2016. The Code outlines the minimum professional standards of conduct, ethics and performance expected from all pharmacists on the Register. The Code, which came into effect in March



2016, was the result of an extensive period of engagement and consultation with the profession and the public. I believe most people agree we have made The Code a simpler and more succinct document for pharmacists to use and the public to understand.

I am confident that all pharmacists will use the Code as the grounding document upon which to base professional best practice and decision making going forward. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the many members of the profession who contributed so much to this important development.

PRINCIPLE 1: ALWAYS PUT THE PATIENT FIRST

PRINCIPLE 2: PROVIDE A SAFE AND QUALITY SERVICE

PRINCIPLE 3: ACT WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY AT ALL TIMES

PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY AND WORK PROPERLY WITH COLLEAGUES

PRINCIPLE 5: MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

Healthcare professional regulation across the UK has undoubtedly entered a period of further potential change as the Department of Health (London) gears itself up for a consultation in the New Year on the future of regulation of healthcare professions. In Northern Ireland our own Department of Health conducted its own consultation on the future of pharmacy regulation in particular. The PSNI Council responded with its considered opinion that, in the interests of the public and pharmacists alike, pharmacy regulation would be best carried out by a devolved regulator, but with the full separation of profes-

sional representation and regulation. This remains to be our position, however, we continue to await with interest further policy developments in this regard both at Westminster and Stormont and we remain ready to deal with any new UK or Devolved Government proposals positively and constructively.

Organisationally, 2016 has also seen a number of our Council members' period in office come to an end, including Mark Nelson, Gary McKenna, and Marie Smith. I would like to record Council's sincere thanks to them for their extraordinary commitment and support for the Pharmaceutical Society NI, and indeed public safety in general. I and my fellow Council members wish them well in their future endeavours.

I am, at the same time, delighted that six new Council Members have recently been appointed by the Minister: Colleen Duffy, Ciaran Byrne, Eleanor Magennis, Laura Murphy, Mark Campbell and Professor Patrick Murphy. They bring a wealth and diversity of experience and knowledge which I confidently believe will ensure sound governance and effective strategic oversight.

Going forward our Minister of Health's Vision 2026 will clearly be one of our major challenges. As a devolved healthcare regulator I believe we are in a strong position to deliver effective regulation that will be flexible and proportionate to meet any changes in local services in Northern Ireland. Next year will see the launch of our new Corporate Strategy and this new and exciting Government thinking will form a core part of our plans and actions for the future.

Consultations



Our major standards and policy development work in 2017 will focus on the consultation and publication of new premises standards for a retail pharmacy business or registered pharmacy. These new standards will be

## CPD Update

focused on outcomes to patients and continuous improvement to pharmacy services. This new approach aims to provide greater autonomy to pharmacy owners to evidence the delivery of patient-centred pharmacy services without compromise to innovative pharmacy practice or the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public.

To meet UK Government policy requirements, we also plan to consult upon and introduce Regulations for language testing. This will be aimed at assuring the public that all pharmacists practising in Northern Ireland have the necessary English Language skills to practise safely.

We also plan to consult upon and publish revised Indicative Sanctions Guidance for our Statutory Committee, which hears Fitness to Practice cases. This will be aimed at ensuring that pharmacist-related Fitness to Practise decisions continue to be fair, appropriate and based on the most up-to-date case law and regulatory thinking.

We look forward to hearing professionals' views on all our proposals. I would earnestly appeal to all pharmacists to let us know your views so that we can best design effective regulation fit for the future. We greatly value working with the profession to deliver the best and most appropriate Standards and policies going forward. In this way we aim to not only maintain Standards but assist pharmacists to deliver the highest possible quality and so further improve services to the public we serve.

One of the benefits of having a NI-based Regulator is greater ease of access, and as such, I would encourage all registrant pharmacists to contact our dedicated and capable staff team if you have any questions or queries relating to any aspect of our work. You can do this by emailing [info@psni.org.uk](mailto:info@psni.org.uk) or by telephoning: **028 9032 6927**.

With Christmas almost upon us, we enter one of the busiest periods of the year for pharmacists. I sincerely hope that you all manage to get a period of rest and joy with families during this festive season. I wish you all very best wishes and happiness for the New Year.

**Dr Jim Livingstone**

**Council President**

As reported in our October Newsletter, 99.7% of registrants completed their CPD requirements for 2015-16, which was a record result for compliance. 10 per cent of the register had their CPD portfolios randomly sampled as part of our internal audit and quality assurance process, and, as this process nears completion, a number of outcomes have been reported.

231 portfolios audited in Assessment 1 (10% of register selected as part of the audited sample in June 2016)

- 209 passed Assessment 1 (91% of audited sample)
- 20 passed Reassessment 1
- 1 entered into Reassessment 2 (final results available in February 2017).

### **Pharmacists should consider the following when engaging in, and recording their CPD activity for CPD year 2016/17:**

- CPD information should be clearly written and answer the assessment criteria specifically; this will help the CPD assessors assess the quality of the CPD entry and minimise failure of any of the essential criteria;
- CPD cycles should, as far as possible, be recorded throughout the CPD year – this makes reflective practice more meaningful and affords more time for editing and revision before the submission deadline;
- All stages of the CPD cycle should relate specifically to the learning objectives identified in the reflection stage of the cycle and to the area of pharmacy practice.

As we continue to develop our CPD program, audited entries will be examined more closely for quality and relevance to area of practice.

Numerous support materials are available online. These include a:

- [CPD Assessment guide](#)
- [CPD Online Manual](#).

In addition [The Pharmacy Forum NI](#) provides a range of different CPD facilitation training and support services.

For all CPD-related queries, please refer to the [CPD Frequently Asked Questions](#). If you require further assistance you can contact: [cpd@psni.org.uk](mailto:cpd@psni.org.uk) or telephone at **02890 326927**.

## Pre-registration update

**As the current cohort of pre-registration trainees head towards the half way point of their year's training, the following updates will be of interest and value to trainees and tutors alike.**



### E-portfolios

The purpose of the performance standards is to ensure that a trainee pharmacist has consistently demonstrated their competency to practise as a pharmacist at the end of their year's training. With a view to assisting trainees and tutors in the management of the performance standards component of the pre-registration training programme, we have revised the guidance for the submission deadline. All trainees and tutors should have received details of the revised guidance in September and are reminded to work towards the new deadline.

### Appraisals

Almost all trainees have submitted their 13 week appraisals. All appraisals are reviewed by the Pharmaceutical Society NI and to date appraisals have shown excellent engagement between tutors and trainees. They offer motivation and encouragement but also provide structure for areas that require improvement.

Trainees will very shortly have their 26 week appraisal. It is expected that trainees will achieve approximately 50% of their performance standards at 26 weeks. Tutors should ensure they address their trainee's progress against their performance standards at this time.

### Protected development time

**Tutors are reminded that protected development time is a mandatory part of the pre-registration year and it is a requirement for all tutors to provide trainees with this time during their training.**

The standards for pre-registration training state that:

*"A tutor must ensure that the pre-registration trainee will have onsite Personal Protected Professional Development time, agreed through discussion between trainee and his tutor. Training needs should be reviewed regularly. A minimum of the equivalent of four hours per working week must be dedicated to Personal Protected Professional Development Time."*

As part of the annual review of pre-registration training, trainees are asked if they have received four hours per week protected time for study and development.

### Next year's cohort

#### The pre-registration application form for 2017/18

The application form for 2017/18 is now available via the following link: <http://www.psn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/PR-Application-2017-18-Final-V1.pdf>

### Learning contract to become part of 2017/18 application process

As of the next training year the Learning Contract between trainee and tutor will form a core part of the application process and will cover the full training period.

The Learning Contract is an agreement between the pre-registration tutor and trainee. It clarifies what is expected during pre-registration training and sets out the behaviours and commitments expected of the trainee and the tutor. It should be discussed and signed by both the tutor and trainee. Both trainee and tutor should keep a copy of this contract.

The Learning Contract is an essential part of the programme and should be signed and agreed by both parties.

A learning contract is not a contract of employment, but an agreement by both parties to commit to the providing and receiving of training.

**The closing date for applications is the 31st March 2016.**

## Consultation: Pharmacist Prescribers Regulations 2017

Following our recent communication to all [Independent Prescribers](#), the Pharmaceutical Society NI has launched a consultation on proposals for amendment to the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994, in respect of "Pharmacist Prescriber" annotations. This is an eight week consultation, opening today 14 November 2016, will close at **12 noon on Monday 9 January 2017**.

For further information on the consultation and how to respond please follow this link: [www.psn.org.uk/publications/consultations/](http://www.psn.org.uk/publications/consultations/)

## Duty to support patients to make informed choices

Last year, following claims that patients and the public had been inappropriately influenced by health professionals when making decisions about where they access services, including flu vaccinations and dispensing of prescriptions, the General Medical Council (GMC), General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and the Pharmaceutical Society of NI published a [joint statement](#) on the issue.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind registrants of the content of this statement and its core message that Doctors and pharmacy professionals must work in partnership with patients; that care of patients must always be the first priority and access to services such as flu vaccinations should not be affected by commercial interests.