

Regulator seeks views on new Code of Conduct for Pharmacists in Northern Ireland

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland today launched a consultation on a new Code of Conduct for all pharmacists in Northern Ireland to replace its previous Code of Ethics. (16.02.15)

The Regulator is inviting comments on the document which will underpin the functions of the pharmacy regulator in Northern Ireland and be an integral part of maintaining patient safety.

Speaking about the Code of Conduct and the importance of the consultation, Dr Jim Livingstone, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, said:

“The primary responsibility of the Pharmaceutical Society NI is to protect and maintain public safety in respect of the profession of pharmacy. We do this by ensuring that registered pharmacists in Northern Ireland are fit to practise, keep their skills and knowledge up to date, and deliver high quality safe care to patients.

“In this regard the new Code of Conduct is the single-most important document the Pharmaceutical Society of NI produces. It sets out the professional standards, behaviour and conduct the public can expect from a pharmacist when accessing pharmaceutical care. It underpins the regulatory functions of the organisation and is intended to guide and support pharmacy registrants in their area of practice, professional development and decision-making.

“The current Code of Ethics has been in use for five years, but in that time new legislation has been introduced, pharmacy practise has developed further, and following The Francis Report, the focus of healthcare regulation throughout the United Kingdom has become sharper. We have therefore undertaken an extensive process of review to update the current Code and are now seeking people’s views on the results of this work.

“We propose to establish a new Code of Conduct which covers all areas of pharmacy practise and professional roles, is clear and unambiguous to all, and is easy to put into practise.

“We would therefore encourage feedback from patients and the public; pharmacy registrants and potential registrants; employers, professional and representative bodies, and other stakeholders who may have an interest in pharmaceutical care”.

The consultation will run from 16 February 2015 to 11 May 2015.

Ends

For further information please contact Mark Neale at the Pharmaceutical Society NI on 028 9026 7933 or mark.neale@psni.org.uk or Peter Hutchinson peter.hutchinson@psni.org.uk

Notes to editors

1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is the regulatory body for pharmacists in Northern Ireland. Our primary purpose is to ensure practicing pharmacists in Northern Ireland are fit to practise, keep their skills and knowledge up to date and deliver high quality safe care to patients.
2. The consultation document and details on how to respond to the consultation is available on the Pharmaceutical Society NI website <http://www.psni.org.uk/publications/consultations/>
3. This consultation will run for 12 weeks from 16 February 2015 to 11 May 2015.
4. The *Code of Conduct* of the Pharmaceutical Society NI outlines the standard of conduct, practice and professional performance expected of all registrants. It supports the organisation's regulatory policies and procedures. The Code of Conduct underpins all other professional standards and guidance documents issued by the regulator and other organisations, principally the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS).