

Welcome to update



Welcome to the second edition of our regulatory update in 2018.

In this edition we look at the recently launched consultations by DoH London on Dispensing Errors and Responsible and Superintendent Pharmacists; report on Council's approval of new Premises Standards; acknowledge the contribution of the Health Service at 70; and provide an update on the Council's review of Standards and Guidance documents for pharmacists.

In addition we provide you with our regular updates on Pre-registration and CPD.

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Consultations on Dispensing Errors and Responsible and Superintendent Pharmacists Launched

As an outcome of the work of the Rebalancing Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation Programme Board, the Department of Health and Social Care (London) has launched two UK wide consultations on behalf of the 4 UK health departments.

The consultations relate to the draft Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Hospitals and Other Pharmacy Services) Order 2018 and the draft Pharmacy (Responsible Pharmacists, Superintendent Pharmacists etc) Order 2018

Chief Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society NI and a member of the Rebalancing Board, Trevor Patterson, welcomed the publication of the consultations.

In a statement Mr Patterson said:

“I am delighted that we are now considering an extension to hospital pharmacists and those providing relevant pharmacy services of the defence that has already been established for community pharmacists. It has long been recognised that the threat of prosecution is a potential barrier to reporting and learning from errors”

On the draft Pharmacy (Responsible Pharmacists, Superintendent Pharmacists etc) Order 2018 Mr Patterson said:

“This presents an opportunity to review and update the legislation relating to Responsible Pharmacists and Superintendent Pharmacists to reflect governance expectations and developing models of practice. The consultation aims to clarify the relationship between the Responsible Pharmacist and Superintendent Pharmacist in the context of overall governance.”

“I am also delighted that this draft Order contains proposals to provide the Pharmaceutical Society NI with the provision of a Deputy Registrar”

“I would encourage pharmacists, members of the public and interested parties in Northern Ireland to respond to this important public consultation”



What are the Proposals?

The first draft Order seeks to extend defences that already exist for pharmacy professionals working at or from registered pharmacies in the case of accidental preparation and dispensing errors. It aims to provide a defence for pharmacy professionals working in hospitals and other relevant pharmacy services.

The second draft Order seeks to clarify and strengthen the arrangements of registered pharmacies concerning how they are governed. Specifically, it makes proposals around the roles of responsible pharmacists and superintendent pharmacists in primary legislation with the responsibility for relevant standards passing to the pharmacy regulators, rather than within ministerial Regulations.

Resources

The consultation document and information on how to respond can be found [here](#).

A Statement from the Chair of the Rebalancing Board, Ken Jarrold, CBE, and a series of Frequently Asked Questions, can be found [here](#).

The Rebalancing Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation Programme Board reviews relevant pharmacy legislation and regulation to ensure it:

- provides safety for users of pharmacy services
- reduces any unnecessary legislation

allows innovation and development of pharmacy practice

The Board advises ministers on the development of policy. It will also oversee policy delivery to help ensure that the Rebalancing Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation Programme meets its objectives.

More information on the Rebalancing Board can be found [here](#).



Council Approves New Premises Standards

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI approved new Premises Standards for implementation in registered pharmacies in Northern Ireland at its Council meeting on Tuesday 05 June 2018.



In a statement the President of the Pharmaceutical Society NI, Dr Jim Livingstone said:

“Today’s approval marks a significant stage in the process of implementing new Premises Standards for all registered pharmacies in Northern Ireland. These Standards will have a statutory basis giving us a clear responsibility to ensure that pharmacies in Northern Ireland operate in a manner that protects the public and puts the patient first.

“Having undertaken a full public consultation on our proposals, we are confident that the Premises Standards will provide a clear regulatory framework for the Pharmacy Owner and Superintendent to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public. They will also help to improve the patient and public experience and let people know what to expect from their pharmacies”.

Speaking about what happens next Dr Livingstone said:

“Whilst the Council has approved new Premises Standards today, this is only the first step on the way to their implementation. We will be working closely with the Department of Health (NI) to develop meaningful criteria – directly linked to the Standards – for use by the Department of Health’s Inspectorate in measuring and assessing pharmacy premises. We also propose to launch a pilot scheme with the Department to test the criteria and inspection regime to be sure it is fit for purpose before full implementation across all pharmacies. We will ensure the involvement of the pharmacy profession, Pharmacy Owners and Superintendents as this work progresses.

“Once the piloting has been completed we intend that the new Premises Standards and inspection regime will take effect in 2019.”

Celebrating the NHS at 70

The Pharmaceutical Society NI would like to wish the NHS and all its staff a happy 70th Birthday.

Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs:

“Healthcare professionals have, with great dedication and skill, served the public for 70 years.

“The Health Service has evolved significantly over the decades and what was initially a centralised service is now regionalised across the United Kingdom.



“In Northern Ireland the service faces some common and some unique challenges into the future.

“Primary and secondary care pharmacists here have played a vital role in the development of the local health service and continue with dedication to innovate and develop to meet patients’ needs.

“Modern regulation has an important role in the future of a successful health care system. In an increasingly complex and diverse health service, regulation maintains a clear focus on patient safety, whilst allowing healthcare professionals to innovative and continue to provide the compassionate care they and the health service are renowned for.



“The Pharmaceutical Society NI wishes all pharmacists and those who work in the health service a very happy birthday”.

Pre-Registration Update

Compliance with Standards for Pre-registration training

The [Standards for Pre-registration Training](#) make it explicitly clear what the minimum requirements are for training to be recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society NI. The Standards apply to trainees, tutors and the respective employing organisations. Before embarking on a pre-registration training agreement, trainees, tutors and employers must read and understand what their obligations are in relation to the standards for pre-registration training. The Standards can be viewed using the link above. Whilst most trainees and employers will strictly adhere to the standards, we recognise that there will always be exceptional circumstances and these should be managed by way of early communication with the Pharmaceutical Society NI.

Non-compliance with the Standards for Pre-registration training may result in training not being recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society NI.

In certain circumstances this may also lead to fitness to practise proceedings if there is seen to be deliberate or persistent non-compliance with the Standards.

What to do if training arrangements change

The Pharmaceutical Society NI recognises that life events or unforeseen circumstances can arise where the training arrangements between tutors and trainees, made at the start of the year must change (for example tutor absence due to sickness, maternity). The Standards for pre-registration training define the obligation of tutors and employers in relation to notifying the Pharmaceutical Society NI of any changes in training arrangements. It is important to understand that, if changes are not contemporaneously notified to the Pharmaceutical Society NI then retrospective training will not be recognised.

Raising concerns

Concerns about pre-registration training can be raised via the Pharmaceutical Society NI website or with the Pre-registration Lead.



INFORMATION FOR TUTORS

Verification for performance Standards

For 2018 /19 trainees are being asked to achieve targets for completion of performance standards at each appraisal (see details below). Tutors and trainees will be able monitor progress by viewing the % completion score on their e-portfolio.

Tutors are reminded that the % completion score that the Pharmaceutical Society NI monitors is based entirely on the cycles that have been verified by the tutor. Therefore, tutors will be required to ensure that they have verified enough cycles before each appraisal.

13-week appraisal:	25% completed
26-week appraisal:	50% completed
39-week appraisal:	75 - 90% completed
50-week appraisal:	100 completed

Appropriate Scoring of Appraisals

Tutors are reminded that each appraisal report should indicate the level the trainee is at compared to the level expected from a practising pharmacist at the end of the year.

The score does not relate to the trainee's progress during that quarterly period of appraisal.

Protected Development Time

Protected development time of 4 hours per week is a mandatory part of the pre-registration year and it is expected that all trainees will receive this during their training.

Learning Contract

All tutors complete a [learning contract](#) with their trainee during the application process. It is recommended that tutors re-visit the learning contract with the trainee at the start of training and at each appraisal. This helps set your expectations of the trainee, demonstrates that you are meeting your commitments and sets the tone of your leadership for the training year. The learning contract can be accessed using the link above.

CPD Update

2017/18 – Another Record Year for CPD Submissions

The total number of pharmacist registrants required to submit a CPD portfolio by 1 June 2018 was 2349 - an increase of 101 on last year.



Submissions

2318 registrants engaged with the CPD process and submitted portfolios – an increase of 85 on last year's submissions. As per last year, 7 submissions were received on paper.

Extenuating Circumstances

Additionally, the Registrar granted 159 registrants either total or partial exemption from submission of portfolios for this CPD year due to extenuating circumstances.

Non-submissions

A total of 31 statutory notices of intention to remove from the register for CPD non-submission were issued on 08 June 2018.

Assessment

A total of 257 portfolios were selected for assessment (random and targeted) equating to 10.94% of the eligible portfolios. The random selection totalled 227 portfolios. The targeted selection, comprising late submissions, 10% change in scope of practice and 10% recently returned to practice totalled 30 portfolios.

12 CPD assessors are engaged in the portfolio assessment process for 2017/18.

Results

CPD results will be issued to sampled registrants in late August 2018.

The Registrar would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have participated in the CPD process, both registrants and assessors, for their co-operation and timely responses.

Standards and Guidance Review

After the publication of the revised Code of professional standards of conduct, ethics and performance for pharmacists in Northern Ireland in 2016, the Pharmaceutical Society NI is undertaking a review of its supporting Standards and Guidance documents.

As part of this review the Council, at its meeting of 10 April 2018, agreed to discontinue the following Guidance documents:

- **Practice Update on Codeine Containing Products**
- **Supplementary Professional Guidance for Pharmacist in NI on the Provision of Homeopathic Products within a Pharmacy**

Council considers that following the publication of the new Code and the remaining Standards and Guidance documents, the risks associated with these issues are adequately covered.

Council considers that registrants, using their professional judgement and expertise, can adequately deal with the issues that these documents covered, without the need for additional Guidance from the Regulator. The Pharmaceutical Society NI will continue to update registrants on further outcomes of the ongoing review of Standards and Guidance documents.

Retirement of Professor Mike Mawhinney

The Pharmaceutical Society NI would like to acknowledge the recent retirement of Professor Mike Mawhinney from the Department of Health NI and his contributions to patient and public safety and pharmacy including the oversight of medicines and poisons governance throughout his career. Professor Mawhinney was the Senior Principal Pharmaceutical Officer within the Department of Health and head of the Medicines Regulatory Group (MRG). The Medicines Regulatory Group is responsible for key aspects of medicines control in Northern Ireland, including the monitoring of the production, import/export, possession, supply and administration of controlled drugs and other medicinal products and as the regulator of pharmacy in Northern Ireland we have worked in close association with Professor Mawhinney throughout his 25 years in the Department.