

Health matters

The Pharmaceutical Society NI may need to conduct health assessments if we receive information about a pharmacist's health which indicates that their fitness to practise may be impaired.

Declaration of health matters

If you become aware you are suffering from a health condition which may affect your fitness to practise safely as a pharmacist you must inform the Pharmaceutical Society.

If you have a health condition that is under control and for which you are being treated appropriately you do not need to inform the Pharmaceutical Society. Also if due to a physical health condition you are unable to work for a limited period you do not need to inform the Pharmaceutical Society. If you have any doubt you should declare health matters to us.

A 'Declaration to Registrar in regard to matters relating to health and/or conduct issues' must be completed when informing the Pharmaceutical Society of any health related matters.

On receiving a health declaration from you the Pharmaceutical Society may:

- Request further information from you in relation to your current health; and/or
- Request further information from your treating doctor in relation to your health; and/or
- Request that you undergo a medical examination

Medical Examination

In certain cases we may require a pharmacist to attend a medical examination. This medical examination will be carried out by a medical assessor nominated by the Pharmaceutical Society.

The purpose of the medical examination is to obtain further information regarding your health situation and an opinion from an appropriately qualified healthcare professional as to whether the physical or mental health condition could impair your fitness to practise.

The Pharmaceutical Society will write to you to request that you provide consent to be medically examined, as well as details of your GP and any other treating doctors. The Pharmaceutical Society will pay the costs of the medical examination, and the costs of obtaining copies of medical records. The Pharmaceutical Society will forward medical records, and any other relevant information, to the medical assessor who will carry out the medical examination. Please note that these records are treated confidentially and will be destroyed when the matter has been finalised.

Medical Assessor's Report

Following the examination, the medical assessor will prepare a report and send a copy of the completed report to the Pharmaceutical Society. This report will include information such as details of your past medical history, current medication and treatment, the investigations the medical assessor carried out in relation to your health and a diagnosis. The report will also contain an opinion regarding your fitness to practise. The Pharmaceutical Society will also provide you with a copy of this report.

Referral to a Fitness to Practise Committee

Once the Pharmaceutical Society receives the medical assessor's report, the Registrar will consider the contents of the report and will determine whether or not the case meets the

criteria for referral for further investigation by the fitness to practise committees of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Interim Orders

In cases where a registrant is very unwell and poses a risk to the public or to themselves, the Registrar may make a decision that the case should be referred directly to the Fitness to Practise Committee to consider whether it is necessary for the protection of the public or otherwise in the public or the registrant's interests, for an interim order (for suspension or for conditions to be attached to their registration) to be imposed.