

## **The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018**

### **Ken Jarrold, Chair of the Rebalancing Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation Programme Board, said,**

“It gives me great pleasure that from 16 April 2018, registered pharmacy professionals will be able to make use of new defences in the event of inadvertent preparation and dispensing errors in registered pharmacies.

These new defences, combined with existing defences in the Medicines Act, will encourage the reporting of errors without fear of prosecution. I know that professional and representative bodies are doing some great work to improve reporting amongst the professions, which combined with the change in law will surely lead to improved patient safety through increased learning associated with a higher level of reporting.

This is a great success for the Board, but it is important that pharmacy professionals working in other settings should also be able to make use of these new defences. That is why the Government will shortly be consulting on similar proposals to extend these defences to pharmacy professionals working in hospitals and other pharmacy services. The consultation will also include proposals to clarify the roles of Responsible Pharmacists and Superintendent Pharmacists and I encourage the pharmacy community to engage with the consultation to ensure that we have got it right.”

A copy of The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018 can be viewed on the legislation.gov website at:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/181/contents/made>

The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018 (Commencement) Order of Council 2018, bringing the Order into effect, was made by the Privy Council on 21 March 2018 and can be viewed on the legislation.gov website at:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/402/contents/made>

An FAQ document detailing information underpinning the Order can be found on the Rebalancing Programme website.