

**19 March 2020**

### **Postponement of 2020 CPD Submission**

The Pharmaceutical Society NI has been in close discussions with government and public health organisations about the coronavirus pandemic. Considering the challenges and pressures being faced by the health service, pharmacists and patients in Northern Ireland, and as the number of cases increase, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI has approved the postponement of this year's submission date for CPD.

Pharmacists will not be required to submit the normally required CPD portfolios by 01 June 2020 and will be provided with two months' notice of a new submission date later in 2020. The decision on setting a new submission date will be context specific and will be taken in consultation with the Department of Health NI.

This decision does not preclude pharmacists from doing CPD at a time when they may need to rapidly improve their skills but it removes the burden of writing it up on the online portal and submitting it by 01 June 2020. It is recommended that, where possible, pharmacists maintain their professional development activities and learning.

To accommodate this change for the 2019/20 CPD year, adjustments will be made to the requirements for the 2020/21 CPD year which will be shortened in length and the quantity adjusted accordingly.

All pharmacists will be informed of the necessary changes in the 2020/21 CPD year when a submission date for the 2019/20 CPD year has been agreed.

Considering these decisions, the introduction of the new CPD Framework has been deferred to 01 June 2021. The CPD Framework for 2020/21 will continue to be the 2014 CPD Framework which can be found here: <https://www.psni.org.uk/cpd/continuing-professional-development/statutory-cpd/>

A Frequently Asked Questions document has been placed on our website in relation to the postponement of the CPD submission date, which can be found here: <https://www.psni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CPD-Postponment-FAQs-19.03.20.pdf>

A number of additional statements have been made in relation to our regulatory approach during this difficult period and a dedicated page has been created on our website to ensure that pharmacists can keep up to date as our approach evolves.

The webpage can be found here: <https://www.psni.org.uk/psni/about/covid19-regulatory-statements-and-information/>

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