



Time-limited Register

24 March 2020

As a healthcare professional you will be aware of the current pandemic which is necessitating the use of extraordinary measures to ensure a robust healthcare response.

The UK government is progressing legislation which will allow the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society NI to temporarily register fit, proper and suitably experienced persons as pharmacists in order to aid in the response to the pandemic.

The legislation will permit the registration of individuals or groups of individuals. For now, we are preparing to register all those that left the register in the last three years in good standing, providing an option to opt out of registration.

Clearly, there is no obligation on any individual to return to practice and any decision to do so must balance the recent lack of experience and CPD with the needs of the service. The UK healthcare regulators released a statement (3 March below) on how we would regulate during the pandemic which is intended to reassure registrants that context would be taken into account provided registrants had followed Standards and exercised their professional judgement.

Individuals may have concerns about returning to work, particularly if their own health places them at increased risk of infection.

This is a personal choice. It's likely that individuals will want to consider and weigh up many issues before deciding what to do.

Not all roles are patient facing. Depending on skills, experience and location, individuals may be able to carry out roles that don't involve face to face contact with patients. The [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section provides further information.