

Welcome to Update



Welcome to the first edition of our Regulatory Update in 2022.

In this edition, we highlight an important consultation from the Department of Health NI on the Statutory Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians.

We bring you news of the closure of the Covid-19 Temporary Register and the publication of the Scrutiny Committee 2021 report with valuable learnings for pharmacists.

We highlight two upcoming vacancies on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI (one lay and one registrant including the vacancy for the Council President).

We introduce Ryan Duffy, our new Interim Project Manager and highlight some information on the CPD process.

Lastly, we highlight some news you may have missed.

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Review previous editions

You can read previous editions of our Regulatory Update [here](#)

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Department of Health NI Consultation on the Introduction of Statutory Regulation of the Pharmacy Technician Workforce in Northern Ireland

The Department of Health NI has launched an 8-week consultation, closing on 16 May 2022, on the 'Introduction of Statutory Regulation of the Pharmacy Technician Workforce in Northern Ireland.

Pharmacy technicians work as part of the pharmacy team to support the delivery of safe, effective and efficient pharmacy services for patients. Their training and expertise enhances the skill mix that is available within teams which supports better patient care and improved capacity in the provision of pharmacy services.

The consultation seeks views on the proposal to regulate pharmacy technicians in NI and is the first step on a journey to bring forward this new healthcare profession.

This is an important consultation which should be of interest to pharmacists and members of the public alike. The consultation document and instructions on how to respond can be found [here](#).

Closure of COVID-19 Temporary Register

The Covid-19 Temporary Register, opened in April 2020 under the Coronavirus Act 2020. This enabled the Pharmaceutical Society NI to temporarily register persons, in good standing, who had withdrawn from the Register within the last three years. The purpose of the Covid-19 Temporary Register was to provide the maximum support possible to the pharmacy workforce and the health and social care system in unprecedented circumstances.

On 3 April 2020 during the initial phase, the Pharmaceutical Society NI placed 265 pharmacists onto the Covid-19 Temporary Register, with the option of removing themselves should they wish. A second phase was implemented and by March 2022, 262 pharmacists were on the Covid-19 Temporary Register.

The Department of Health has now advised the Pharmaceutical Society NI that the circumstances to justify the continuation of all Covid-19 healthcare Temporary Registers are reducing, as the impact of the pandemic declines.

On 16 March 2022, the Government announced its intention to close the Covid-19 Temporary Register on 30 September 2022. This provides a six-month notice period for pharmacists on the Covid-19 Temporary Register. Applications to join the Covid-19 Temporary Register close on **24 March 2022**.

Closure of COVID-19 Temporary Register

The Pharmaceutical Society NI Covid-19 Temporary Register will close on **30 September 2022**. Pharmacists who remain on the Covid-19 Temporary Register will be unable to practise in Northern Ireland after that date. Those wishing to continue to practise may only do so only after re-joining the Register.

Dr. Jim Livingstone, the President of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI commented:

“On behalf of the Council and as a member of the community, I would like to thank the pharmacists on the Covid-19 Temporary Register who stood ready to support their pharmacy colleagues and provide vital health care and services to the community in Northern Ireland during the pandemic. While there was no obligation on any individual to return to practice, many pharmacists chose to do so providing valuable support across the full range of pharmacy services throughout Northern Ireland. We all owe them our gratitude.

“I want to take this opportunity to encourage pharmacists on the Covid-19 Temporary Register to now apply for full registration with the Pharmaceutical Society NI to enable them to continue to provide this vital care and support to our community.”

The registration page can be accessed [here](#).

The Department of Health is seeking to appoint two Council Members to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI (one Lay and one Registrant member including the Council President)

The Department of Health is seeking to appoint two Council Members, (one Lay, and one Registrant) to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI. It is intended to assign the role of President to one of these appointments.

This is an exceptional opportunity to share your talents and expertise to make a positive difference to the lives of people in Northern Ireland.

Applicants for these positions must apply on the Department of Health application form, and if invited for interview, must meet the following essential criteria: Strategic Thinking, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Performance Management, Collaborative Working, and if applying for the President role, Leadership.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **12:00 noon GMT ,Tuesday, 05 April 2022**.

For further information go to: [Public Appointment Competition for 2 Council Members to the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland \(PSNI 1/22\) | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Upcoming Council meeting

The next Public Council meeting will take place on **17 May 2022 via Zoom commencing at 09:30 am.**

All our Council meetings are open to the public except in exceptional circumstances and are normally held in our offices at 73 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HL. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and until further notice, Council meetings are currently being held remotely via Zoom.

Should you wish to attend, please contact the Council Secretary, June Alexander (june.alexander@psni.org.uk), at least one working day in advance of the meeting advising of your attendance and stating any particular access requirements you may have.

A list of upcoming Council meetings can be found [here](#).

The latest approved Council minutes from the Council meeting of 25 January 2022 can be found [here](#).

A list of all Council minutes can be found [here](#).

Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2021 published

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI, at its 15 March 2022 meeting, approved the Scrutiny Committee annual report on its fitness to practise decisions during 2021.

The Scrutiny Committee considers initial fitness to practise allegations on a paper-based format and it has the power to dismiss a case, give advice, issue warnings and agree undertakings, if appropriate, and refer more serious cases to the Statutory Committee subject to threshold criteria.

The report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee commented that it considered seven referrals during 2021 of which five were passed to the Statutory Committee for a hearing. Two cases were dealt with by the Scrutiny Committee using its statutory powers.

The report which contains learnings for Pharmacists practising in Northern Ireland can be found [here](#).

Meet Ryan Duffy, our new Interim Project Manager

Ryan Duffy, a practising pharmacist, has joined the team at the Pharmaceutical Society NI as Interim Project Manager. Ryan will support the CEO and the Senior Management Team on the delivery of time limited projects and will support the registration function.

Ryan, a third generation pharmacist, has joined the Society following experience in hospital and community pharmacy.

Ryan's key projects will include:

- taking forward preliminary work on legislative reform and the introduction of entry regimes to a register of pharmacy technicians (subject to Ministerial approval);
- taking forward a review of post-registration education and training and providing recommendations to Council;
- supporting legislative reform being taken forward by DHSC with a view to delivering local implementation; and
- supporting the introduction of new Premises Standards in Northern Ireland.



Following his appointment, Ryan commented, "After having worked with some of the best Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in the country, I look forward to working with the public and all members of the pharmacy team to support the innovation work within pharmacy and ensure that the future training and regulation of pharmacy teams continues to improve public safety and health provision".

Ryan can be contacted on ryan.duffy@psni.org.uk or by telephone on 02890326927

Newsletter Feedback

As always, we welcome your feedback on this Newsletter to make it as effective as possible. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact:

Simon McClenahan

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Telephone: 02890326927

CPD

CPD FRAMEWORK 2021

As you will all be aware, the new [CPD Framework 2021](#) was launched in July 2021 and announced in the Interim Registrar's email of on 05 July 2021. We trust that you have familiarised yourself with the new CPD requirements.

A [Key Changes](#) document, together with Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions documents, can be found on our [CPD Resources](#) Page.

FORMER (MEMBERSHIP ONLINE) CPD PORTAL

In his email of 05 July 2021, the Interim Registrar also advised registrants that the former CPD portal should not be used for recording CPD cycles.

If you missed the announcements in the July 2021 email and November 2021 emails, and you have recorded any cycles on the former CPD portal, please copy them onto your personal device as soon as possible and collate your CPD cycles on the new portal.

CPD portfolios cannot be submitted on the former CPD portal.

CPD portfolios from previous years will be transferred over to the new portal before the former portal is closed down.

NEW ROL (REGULATOR ONLINE) CPD PORTAL

The new CPD portal is part of a wider Regulator Online CRM which is required to facilitate all the regulatory functions of the organisation, particularly given the age and frailty of the old portal which couldn't be properly supported.

The new CPD portal was opened in November 2021 for registrants to collate their CPD cycles for CPD year 2021/22. If you have not already done so, you can access the portal at <https://portal.psni.org.uk/Account/Login>. You will find instructional videos on the portal's homepage.

If you have any difficulties or queries, please contact the CPD Department on 02890 326927 Ext 3 or cpd@psni.org.uk

PORTAL OPENING FOR CPD YEAR 2021/22 SUBMISSIONS

The new CPD portal will open for 2021/22 portfolio submissions on the morning of **01 April 2022** and will remain open until **midnight on 31 May 2022**.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The deadline for receipt of Extenuating Circumstances applications is **30 April 2022**. Applications received after this date will be considered at the Interim Registrar's discretion.

News you may have missed

06 March 2022- Council President condemns attack on Belfast Pharmacist

The full statement can be found [here](#).

28 January 2022- New group to focus on assurance of post-registration practice of pharmacists

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) brought together key stakeholders on 27 January 2022, to discuss establishing a formal group focused on the assurance of post-registration practice of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians (in Great Britain).

Full article can be found [here](#)

Hub and Spoke Dispensing Consultation

The Department of Health launched a consultation on the 16 March 2021, following a government commitment to pursue legislative change to enable all community pharmacies to benefit from 'hub and spoke' dispensing models, with the intention of supporting efficiencies for pharmacies and freeing up pharmacists and their teams for other tasks. The consultation will run for 12 weeks, closing on 08 June 2022.

The consultation seeks views on key areas, including patient safety, governance, transparency and accountability.

This is an important consultation which should be of interest to pharmacists and members of the public alike.

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