

Welcome to update



Welcome to the first edition of our regulatory update in 2017.

In this edition we provide you with an overview of the Professional Standards Authority's performance review for 2015/16, which assesses whether we are meeting the PSA's Standards of Good Regulation. It forms part of its annual review of the nine statutory health and social care regulators across the UK. We provide information on key dates and resources to help you complete and submit your CPD portfolios and we give pre-registration students a number of reminders concerning examinations and correspondence. Finally we provide you with an update on the latest position in relation to the proposed new Regulations for Independent and Supplementary Prescribers.

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Review previous editions

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

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Regulator meets all Standards of Good Regulation

The [Professional Standards Authority](#) (PSA) has published its performance review of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland as part of its annual review of the nine statutory health and social care regulators across the UK. The performance review assesses whether each regulator is meeting the PSA's [Standards of Good Regulation](#). We are very pleased to report that the PSA has now confirmed that the Pharmaceutical Society NI met all the Standards of Good Regulation for 2015/16.

Reflecting on the performance review, Dr. Jim Livingstone, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland said:



"We are delighted with this Performance Review outcome. I believe it is a testimony to the hard work and professionalism of everyone in the organisation. Above all, however, it should give the public assurance that we are doing the right things in the right way to protect patients from potential harm and to uphold the reputation of the pharmacy profession in Northern Ireland.

"At the same time, we cannot rest on our laurels, and so the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI will soon announce a new corporate strategy that will set fresh and ambitious objectives for the organisation, aimed at driving even further improvements in our regulatory performance.

"The PSA did identify a number of issues within our legislative framework, which governs all of our work, and has highlighted the importance of addressing these legislative deficiencies. This is a matter we are acutely aware of and have made it a key priority to work with the Department of Health to modernise our regulatory legislation. In this way we hope new legislation can match our ambition to be a trusted leader for modern and effective healthcare regulation, ensuring pharmacy services are safe and meet the highest standards for the people of Northern Ireland".

Trevor Patterson, Chief Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, commented:

"It is very gratifying to see that we have met all of the PSA's standards – we are not, however, complacent and have noted areas where the PSA have helpfully suggested further improvement opportunities. Our soon to be launched Corporate Strategy 2017 to 2022 already contains ambitious plans to further develop our service delivery and improve agility, cost effectiveness and accountability – we will be working hard with all of our stakeholders to realise these benefits".

The PSA's Summary:

"The PSNI has met all of our Standards of Good Regulation and this represents an improvement in their performance since last year. However, there are problems with the legislation governing the PSNI. While the PSNI has been able to establish work-arounds which ensure that public protection is not compromised, we believe that it is important to address these problems so that they do not cause further difficulties in future.

GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS: ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE HELPS REGISTRANTS APPLY THE REGULATOR'S STANDARDS

The PSNI reviewed and updated additional guidance for registrants, including guidance on patient confidentiality and maintaining clear professional boundaries with patients and carers.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: PROCESS FOR QUALITY-ASSURING PROGRAMMES IS PROPORTIONATE

The PSNI and the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) work together to quality assure undergraduate



At a glance

Annual review of performance

Regulator reviewed: Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland

Standards of good regulation

Core functions	Met
Guidance and Standards	4/4
Education and Training	4/4
Registration	6/6
Fitness to Practise	10/10

and education programmes for pharmacists in Northern Ireland, and the PSNI adopted the GPhC's accreditation methodology into its own procedures. There are two pharmacy degree courses accredited in Northern Ireland and, during this review period, one was reaccredited and the other was subject to an interim accreditation visit. An independent prescribing course was also reaccredited.

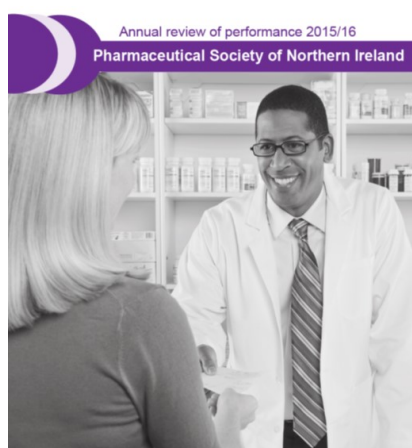
FITNESS TO PRACTISE: ALL DECISIONS ARE WELL-REASONED, CONSISTENT AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC

We noted that the PSNI's Registrar had granted an application for voluntary removal from a registrant who was subject to an interim order and ongoing fitness to practise proceedings. We were unable to find any information about the process followed or any decision-making guidance for the Registrar, so we asked for more details. The PSNI provided additional details about the process and why they had granted the voluntary removal. We are therefore satisfied that the PSNI exercised its powers appropriately.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE: INFORMATION ABOUT FITNESS TO PRACTISE CASES IS SECURELY RETAINED

The PSNI did not meet this Standard in 2013/14 due to a serious data breach. The PSNI commissioned an external audit of its data protection procedures, including recommendations to take on-board. In August 2015, a follow-up audit was carried out to measure progress and found that the recommendations had been implemented, with an exception around staff and PSNI Council members signing a declaration confirming that they understood their data protection responsibilities. The audit also identified that data protection refresher training for staff was required. The PSNI took action to address both these issues. No data breaches were reported to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2015/16 and we have seen nothing to suggest that the PSNI is not securely retaining information about fitness to practise cases".

Click on the cover-page below to access the full report:



CPD 2016/17

The CPD year 2016/17 commenced on 1 June 2016 and will finish 31 May 2017. In this article we outline the key information, dates and resources you need to successfully complete your CPD portfolio.

Key Dates

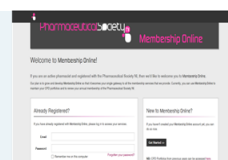
31 May 2017: All Registrants must submit a CPD portfolio to the Pharmaceutical Society NI before midnight on 31 May 2017.

1 April 2017: The portal to the online system opened on 1 April 2017 and will close on 31 May 2017.

1 June 2016—31 May 2017: All CPD activity completed during this period may be included in your CPD.

Access your CPD Portal :

<http://cpd.psni.org.uk/Account/Login>



Support Materials

Numerous resources are available via our website explaining your CPD requirements. These include a [CPD-Framework](#), [CPD-Assessment-Guide](#), and a [CPD Online Manual](#). The Pharmacy Forum provides facilitation services should you wish to avail of more focussed support.

The CPD [Frequently Asked Questions](#) in the *CPD Information* section of the organisation's website provides information on:

- accessing the new CPD Online system
- accessing archived portfolios
- your statutory CPD requirements, and
- the CPD submission process.

Extenuating circumstances

Any registrant unable to fully comply with our CPD requirements due to *extenuating circumstances* (EC) can make an application for either a deferral, exemption or a partial submission. Application criteria apply and details of this process are available on our website at <http://www.psni.org.uk/Extenuating-Circumstances-Form.pdf>

All applications are dealt with on a case by case basis by the Registrar, in accordance with the [CPD-Framework](#) and must be supported with relevant documentary evidence.

Note: an EC application can be made for an exemption, deferral, or a partial submission. Information on the application process is available on our website.

Applications should be forwarded as soon as practicable to the Registrar, if possible, before the 30 April 2017.

Pre-registration Reminders

Examination application deadlines are:

- 1 May 2017** for June examinations
- 1 September 2017** for October examinations

Information regarding entry into the examination is provided in the 2016-17 Training Manual, Section 7:

<http://www.psnl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/PR-Trainee-Manual-2016-17-Jan-2017pdf.pdf>

The fee for the Registration Examination 2017 is £174.

To aid your examination preparation sample papers are accessible through the pre-registration training website.



The 2017 Registration Examinations will be held on:

- Tuesday 6 June 2017** - SU Snack Bar, Queen's Students' Union 79-81 University Road, Belfast BT7 1NF.
- Tuesday 3 October 2017** - Society House, 73 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HL.

Pre-registration Correspondence 2016-17

All pre-registration correspondence is logged on the correspondence section of the pre-registration e-portfolio and also on the Pharmaceutical Society website.

Update on Independent Prescribers Regulations

Following the closure of the Consultation in January on the proposed new Regulations for Independent and Supplementary Prescribers, draft Regulations have been passed to the Department of Health Northern Ireland for approval and completion of the NI Assembly processes.



We recognise that due to the current political situation these processes are being delayed at present and we would ask any pharmacist who has completed an Independent Prescribing Course and who seeks to be annotated as an Independent Prescriber with the Pharmaceutical Society NI to notify us of that intention and we will make contact directly once progress has been made.

We remain committed to doing all in our power to ensure that these Regulations are in place as soon as possible and would encourage all those awaiting IP annotation to notify us by email at Laurence.fay@psni.org.uk.

We ask that correspondence be carried out by email and we will keep applicants informed and ensure that they are notified as soon as annotation becomes available.

Pharmaceutical Society NI Platforms

To keep yourself further up to date on regulatory news and the activities of your regulator please visit our website and Facebook pages

