

## Public Consultation on draft Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Temporary Absence of Pharmacist from Pharmacy) Rules 2018

We are inviting your feedback on the draft Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Temporary Absence of Pharmacist from Pharmacy) Rules 2018. These Rules will set out the arrangements under which Pharmaceutical Assistants may act in the temporary absence of a registered pharmacist.

Please consider the [draft rules](#) and complete this survey. The consultation process will close on 14 August 2018 at 5pm. You may wish to consult this [information note on pharmaceutical assistants](#).

### **Data Protection and Freedom of Information:**

This survey is voluntary. By completing it you are agreeing to allow your responses to be analysed by the PSI for the purpose of seeking feedback on the proposed new Rules. A report on the consultation process will be compiled and will be published on the PSI website shortly after the consultation process is complete.

The information you provide to this survey will be stored in a secure and confidential manner by the PSI, it will only be used for the purposes outlined above and it will be maintained as per the PSI's record retention policy. The PSI uses SurveyMonkey to gather feedback to our public consultations. Full details of how your information is processed via SurveyMonkey is documented in this [privacy policy](#).

Submissions made to public consultations carried out by the PSI are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

**\* 1. Do you agree to the terms above? By selecting Yes you are confirming you consent to providing your answers to the questions in this survey.**

Yes

No

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### 2. Which category best describes you?

- Patient and/or member of the public
- Healthcare professional (non-pharmacist)
- Pharmacy Owner
- Pharmacist registered with the PSI
- Pharmaceutical Assistant registered with the PSI
- Member of a pharmacy team (non-pharmacist)
- Involved in healthcare education or training
- Representing public/patient interests
- Representing interests of healthcare professionals
- Employer of healthcare professionals
- Government body or department
- Regulator
- Industry

Other (please specify)

**3. Are you responding on your own behalf or on behalf of an organisation?**

- Own behalf
- On behalf of an organisation

If you would like to provide your name or the name of your organisation please use the box below.

**4. The period of 'temporary absence of the registered pharmacist' is restricted by Rule 4(1) to any period in a day, not exceeding one hour, where the pharmacist is not physically present in the pharmacy.**

**Do you agree that the time period for temporary absence of a pharmacist should not exceed one hour?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**5. If you do not agree with the proposed time, what, do you believe, should be the maximum time period for the 'temporary absence of a registered pharmacist', whereby the pharmacist is not physically present in the pharmacy?**

**6. Rule 4(2) allows the period of temporary absence to be taken as one single period of 1 hour or as two or more periods of time amounting to 1 hour, in a given day. Do you agree that cumulative periods should be used to calculate the one-hour period?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**7. Pharmacy Owners, superintendent and supervising pharmacists**

**Rule 5 (1) acknowledges the requirements already in place in S.I. No. 488 of 2008. It requires that, in so far as possible, in circumstances where a pharmaceutical assistant is acting in temporary absence of pharmacist that the superintendent and/or pharmacy owner be satisfied as to the knowledge, skills and fitness to so act. Do you agree with this principle?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment on how this could be achieved, please use the box below.

**8. Rule 5 (2) states a pharmaceutical assistant acting on behalf of a registered pharmacist in the temporary absence of the registered pharmacist shall not act in the capacity of the superintendent pharmacist or supervising pharmacist in respect of the pharmacy concerned. Do you agree with this principle?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**9. Inclusion in duty register**

**Rule 6 provides that it should be clearly recorded in the pharmacy's duty register when a pharmaceutical assistant acts in the 'temporary absence of the registered pharmacist'. Do you agree with this proposed rule?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**10. Notification to members of the public**

**Rule 7 provides that a patient and/or member of the public should be made aware when a pharmaceutical assistant acts in the 'temporary absence of the registered pharmacist'. Do you agree with this proposed rule?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment on how this can be achieved, please use the box below.

**11. Professional Task List**

**Rule 8 (1) provides the Council with a mechanism to further provide what may be done by a pharmaceutical assistant when acting in the temporary absence of a pharmacist, in the form of a professional task list. Do you agree with this approach?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**12. Rule 8 (2) provides that the Council shall consider the potential risks arising for patients as a criteria when approving the professional task list. Do you agree that this is appropriate?**

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**13. Rule 8 (3) will allow the Council to publish the professional task list on the PSI's website. Do you agree with this approach?**

- Strongly agree  Disagree  
 Agree  Strongly disagree  
 Neither agree nor disagree

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**14. Rule 8 (4) provides that the Council shall review the professional task list at intervals not exceeding five years. Do you agree that this is appropriate?**

- Strongly agree  Disagree  
 Agree  Strongly disagree  
 Neither agree nor disagree

**15. How frequently do you believe the professional task list should be reviewed?**

- 3 years  
 4 years  
 5 years  
 Each time a new clinical service is introduced

If you would like to provide a comment please use the box below.

**16. Please re-read the proposed rules. These rules will set out the arrangements under which pharmaceutical assistants may act in the temporary absence of a registered pharmacist.**

**In your opinion, is there any aspect of the arrangements for pharmaceutical assistants to act in the 'temporary absence of the registered pharmacist' which has been omitted or dealt with inadequately?**

**17. Finally, in your opinion, is there any aspect of the arrangements for pharmaceutical assistants to act in the 'temporary absence of the registered pharmacist' which can be improved on?**