

Terms of Reference

Establishment and Purpose

An expert group will be established to provide their assessment of the appropriateness of the duties that a pharmaceutical assistant may perform during the temporary absence of the pharmacist in accordance with Section 30 of the Pharmacy Act 2007, the assessment will be made from the perspective of the patient, their expectations and their safety.

Background

For background information on pharmaceutical assistants and temporary absence please see paragraph entitled Background in the report of the Working Group on Temporary Absence Report.

Following acceptance of that report by the Council of the PSI draft rules (Statutory Instruments) were approved for public consultation. At the end of that process and following discussions with the Department of Health the draft rules were revised to include what can be undertaken by a pharmaceutical assistant during the temporary absence of a pharmacist.

Before undertaking the approval and consultation process the PSI will re-engage with significant stakeholders and provide their views and observations to Council. However, the PSI is also anxious that Council receive an independent view of the rules provisions from the perspective of risk, patient safety and expectation. Accordingly, an Expert Group will be established to assess the draft rules and provide to Council their assessment of the significant provisions on patient safety.

Membership of the Sub-Group

The expert group will comprise three members:

- One member with experience of pharmacy regulation and education

- A member with knowledge and experience of risk within health sector

- An experienced community pharmacist

Objectives

The objectives of the Group is/are to critically assess on the basis of risk, patient safety and public protection the provision/s contained within rule 8 of the draft statutory rules which provides for what can be done by a pharmaceutical assistant during the temporary absence of a pharmacist. The Group should assess the rule against the principles of regulation – necessary, effective, proportionate, transparent, accountable and consistent.

To provide a report detailing their deliberations

Corporate Governance

The Expert Group is obliged to conduct its activities within the Corporate Governance Framework and rules of the PSI.

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Meetings

A meeting or meetings as necessary will be arranged by the executive in line with the advice of the Chairperson and the Group.