
Agenda Item G.1

Report on material decisions of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

From: Joanne Kissane, Chair of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

The Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee met on Thursday, 9 June 2022, at 10 am, by MS Teams.

The agenda items below refer to the matters before Council for decision.

The full agenda for the Committee meeting can be found in Annex 1, and this highlights the additional items discussed and items for information only.

Agenda Item E - Core Competency Framework Review - Report and draft of the Core Competency Framework in advance of public consultation

The Committee was informed that a review of the Core Competency Framework for Pharmacists had been undertaken, and a revised Core Competency Framework has been developed. The Committee was informed that the first part of the work undertaken was related to a review of the current CCF, which commenced in 2019. The second part of the work undertaken, which commenced in 2021, related to the re-drafting of the CCF. The re-drafting of the CCF was overseen by a Steering Group (composed of relevant representative organisations), and a Working Group was established to provide feedback and support as part of the re-drafting. Work was also undertaken with a graphic designer to improve the look and accessibility of the document.

The Committee is recommending the revised draft Core Competency Framework to Council for approval for public consultation.

Agenda Item G – Request for approval of position paper on language competence requirements for first-time registration applicants

The Committee was informed that on submission of an application for registration, applicants must prove that they have achieved a standard of competence in English by complying with one of three language competence criteria recognised by the PSI Council.

The Committee was asked to consider the following for recommendation to Council:

1. To revoke the discretion given to the Registrar at the Council meeting in April 2020 in the circumstances of COVID-19
2. To replace the discretion of the Registrar with a lower minimum score for the 'Writing' component, replacing the minimum score of 7 with 6.5 for IELTS and its equivalent for the other three recognised tests;
3. To monitor the use of the super-scoring option and present a review of its continued relevance to Council at the end of 2022 (the Committee suggested that the end of Q2 2023 be considered as a more realistic timeframe);
4. To uphold the non-acceptance of home-based internet tests to assure continued alignment with Irish and international regulators on this element;
5. To confirm that only results from IELTS, TOEFL, CAE and OET tests will currently be considered.

The Committee is recommending the position paper on language competence requirements for first-time registration applicants to Council for approval.

Agenda Item H – Request for approval of revised PSI Inspection Policy

The Committee was informed that the purpose of the revised 2022 PSI Inspection and Enforcement Policy is to update and revise the 2014 Inspection and Enforcement Policy to reflect developments in the PSI's regulatory approach and the developments that occurred as a result of COVID-19. The Committee was also informed that the updated policy includes an overview of PSI's evolving standards-based work that reflects where the PSI is, as a regulator, in 2022. The Committee was advised that this is an interim policy approach.

The Committee suggested including some information in the policy on how it will be operationalised.

The Committee is recommending the revised PSI Inspection Policy to Council for approval.

Agenda Item P – Practice Review – potential form of assessment to be delivered remotely

The Committee was informed that considering the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the cancellation at short notice of the April 2022 Practice Review event, and the anticipated likely incidence of COVID-19 infections in the coming autumn and winter, the PSI requested that the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) explore options relating to Practice Review being run remotely for the October 2022 event. This event is currently planned as an in-person event in RCSI. It was noted that the IIOP have

advised that if October's Practice Review were to be switched to a remote event, the most efficient and realistic format would be an adapted Clinical Knowledge Review (CKR), administered remotely. The adapted format would not include the Standardised Pharmacy Interaction (SPI) element of Practice Review, which is currently in place. Legal opinion is pending in relation to Rule 4 of the CPD rules and whether this could allow for Practice Review to comprise of an assessment via Clinical Knowledge Review only that has been adapted to ensure that all required competencies are being evaluated.

Subject to Legal opinion, the Committee approved the request for the Practice Review events scheduled in October to be administered remotely, in the form of an adapted Clinical Knowledge Review.

Agenda for PSI Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

held on 9 June 2022 at 10 am

The meeting will be held online via MS Teams

Colour code: Red—for decision; Green—for discussion; Blue—for information

Agenda Notation: * - document provided in advance; ****** - will be presented in slide deck at meeting;
******* - verbal update

Indicative time	Item and descriptor		Presenter
10.00	A	<i>Apologies</i>	Chair
10.02	B	Declaration of Interests (See appendix A below)	Chair
10.05	C	Approval of Meeting Agenda	Chair
10.10	D	Approval of Minutes of 9 April 2022 meeting*	Chair
10.15	E	2022 Workplan Project - Adopt revised Core Competency Framework (CCF) for Pharmacists Core Competency Framework Review - Report and draft of the Core Competency Framework in advance of public consultation*	A Mellett
10.35	F	Update on position paper on the regulation of retail pharmacy businesses in hospital settings**	É Crimmins/J Bryan
10.45	G	Request for approval of position paper on language competence requirements for first-time registration applicants*	G O'Donoghue/ J Bryan
11.00	H	Request for approval of revised PSI Inspection Policy*	É Crimmins/J Bryan

11.30	I I.1	2022 Work Plan Project – Revise the current Third Country Qualification Route leading to registration as a pharmacist Update TCQR project*	J Bryan
11.40	J J.1 J.2	2022 Work Plan Project – Assess emerging risks to the continued availability of a professional pharmacy workforce within community and hospital pharmacy Update on project development progress* Project Health Card update*	A Mellett
12.00	K. K.1 K.2	<i>2022 Work Plan Project – Define, and move towards, a more effective regulatory model for community pharmacies</i> Update on methodology development and on development of Governance and Accountability Standards*** Project Health Card update*	É Crimmins / J Bryan
12.10	L	Report on ongoing work on COVID-19 response**	D Burns
12.20	M M.1 M.2 M.3	2022 Work Plan Projects – Project Health Card updates Review the CPD Model for pharmacists* Develop a CPD model for pharmaceutical assistants* Reform of the Pharmacy Act*	A Mellett Interim Registrar
12.30	N	Update on development and implementation of approach to regulatory risk management***	C Dooley
12.40	O	Quarterly update on IIOP operations and developments*	A Mellett
12.45	P	Practice Review – potential form of assessment to be delivered remotely	A Mellett
12.55	Q	AOB close of meeting Plus-Delta Next meeting Date: 9 June 2022	Chair

We anticipate the meeting should end at approximately: 1pm

Joanne Kissane, Chair of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

APPENDIX A

Pharmacy Act 2007 Schedule 1, Section 9: Disclosure of certain interests

9. (1) In this paragraph— “connected relative”, in relation to a person, means a spouse, a man and woman who are not married to each other but are cohabiting as husband and wife, parent, brother, sister, child or spouse of a child of the person;

“meeting” means a meeting of the Council or of a committee of the Council;

“member” includes a member of a committee of the Council;

“specified matter” means—

- (a) an arrangement to which the Council is a party or a proposed such arrangement, or
- (b) a contract or other agreement with the Council or a proposed such contract or agreement.

(2) A member present at a meeting where a specified matter arises who, otherwise than in his or her capacity as a member, has an interest in that matter—

- (a) shall at the meeting, disclose that fact and the extent of the interest,
- (b) may not influence or seek to influence a decision to be made in relation to the matter,
- (c) shall absent himself or herself from the meeting or that part of the meeting during which the matter is being discussed,
- (d) may not vote on a decision relating to the matter, and
- (e) may not take part in any further deliberation of the Council or any of its committees relating to the matter.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph, but without prejudice to the generality of *subparagraph (2)*, a member shall be regarded as having an interest in a matter if a connected relative of that member or a nominee of either of them has such an interest.

(4) The disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and, for as long as the specified matter is being dealt with by the meeting, the member making the disclosure may not be counted for the purposes of determining the presence of a quorum for the meeting.

(5) The question of whether a member's course of conduct, is or would be a contravention of *subparagraph (2)* shall be determined by the chair, whose decision shall be final, and the particulars of the determination shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(6) Where the member referred to in *subparagraph (4)* is the chair, the meeting shall choose another member to chair it for the purposes of the determination.

(7) If satisfied that a member has contravened *subparagraph (2)*, the Minister may remove the member from office and that person is then disqualified from office.