



In This Issue

- ▶ Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

- ▶ Seasonal Influenza Evaluation

- ▶ Irish Institute of Pharmacy - Call for expressions of interest for Peer Support Pharmacists

- ▶ CPD Opportunities

[Print Version »](#)

Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

The 2013 International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress was held in Dublin earlier this month, with great success and high attendance. Irish pharmacists were among the speakers and poster presenters sharing their research and experience with global colleagues. The PSI met with many pharmacists attending the conference both at the Pharmacy in Ireland stand and throughout the conference venues. Visiting international delegates were met with a very warm welcome and great hospitality by local pharmacists. The PSI would like to express its thanks to all those who contributed to making the FIP Congress such a success.

In this month's newsletter pharmacists are asked to support Carbon Monoxide Awareness week and to be mindful of the potential signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure in their patients. The newsletter also brings you information on the PSI evaluation of the 2012-2013 pharmacy vaccination service and on upcoming CPD opportunities. In addition the call for expressions of interest for Peer Support Pharmacists for the Irish Institute of Pharmacy is highlighted below.

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

September 23rd-29th is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and pharmacists are asked to support this important public health initiative. As you will be aware, carbon monoxide poisoning is a preventable cause of death in Ireland each year, with many more people suffering non-fatal poisoning, which can lead to lasting neurological damage and other ill effects. At this time of the year, the increased use of heating appliances and reduction in open windows increases the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can, however, be easily prevented and greater awareness amongst health professionals of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure in their patients will help to save lives and prevent unnecessary suffering.

If you would like posters and information leaflets for your pharmacy, please contact Bord Gáis Networks on 1850 200 694 or email info@networks.bordgais.ie, giving your address and the quantity of support materials required. Further information can be accessed at www.carbonmonoxide.ie

Seasonal Influenza Evaluation

The PSI's Council recently published its "Report on the Evaluation of the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Service in Pharmacy 2012-2013." This evaluation was undertaken in order to provide on-going assurance regarding this service, particularly as pharmacy vaccination is still a relatively new initiative and to follow on from the risk review that took place in 2012.

The evaluation included engagement with patients, pharmacists and other

key stakeholders. As a result of this engagement and the information gathered, a number of findings have been made including:

- The seasonal influenza vaccination service provided in pharmacies is operating effectively and no quality or safety concerns were identified. Pharmacists were more fully integrated into the national immunisation campaign in 2012.
- The number of patients accessing vaccinations through pharmacies increased significantly in 2012/2013. Patients expressed satisfaction with the service provided.
- There was a significant uptake of influenza vaccination by pharmacy staff leading to potential public health benefits.

This evaluation informed the Council's decisions regarding training for the 2013/2014 season and revisions made to the [PSI Guidance on the Provision of Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Service by Pharmacists in Retail Pharmacy Businesses](#).

Irish Institute of Pharmacy - Call for expressions of interest for Peer Support Pharmacists

As communicated by email this week, the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIoP) has issued a call for expressions of interest seeking pharmacists with an interest and/or expertise to take on the role of a Peer Support Pharmacist (PSP).

The IIoP is responsible for implementing the new CPD Framework for pharmacy in Ireland. The new CPD framework is based on a model of self-directed learning, allowing pharmacists to employ a wide range of learning methods to meet their individual learning needs, ranging from informal "on-the-job" learning to formally accredited educational programmes. Pharmacists will be required to become competent in the process of reflection and skills such as recording in order to meet the requirements of the new CPD model which includes: self-identification of learning needs, personal development planning and documentation of learning outcomes.

To assist pharmacists with the implementation of the new CPD framework a team of 20-25 Peer Support Pharmacists is to be appointed. Expressions of Interest are now being sought from pharmacists with an interest and/or expertise in the following:

- Developing supportive professional relationships with peers
- Education/training
- Professional Development
- Excellence in Pharmacy Practice
- Peer Review

The successful candidates will be registered pharmacists with a minimum of three years' post-registration experience. A willingness to work constructively in a team environment and a passionate interest in the pursuit of excellence in patient care and pharmacy practice are essential. Successful candidates will also be: innovative; influential; self-starting; and goal oriented. Excellent IT skills are also essential.

Further information about the role and selection process can be obtained by emailing Mr John P. Kelly, Operations Manager at: iiop@rcsi.ie. The closing date for applications is 18th October, 2013.

CPD Opportunities

Irish Food Allergy Network Multidisciplinary Educational Meetings

As previously advised the Irish Food Allergy Network are inviting pharmacists

to attend a series of multidisciplinary educational meetings on the subject of "Diagnosing and Managing Paediatric Food Allergy"

The remaining meetings will take place at the following venues:

Cork:	Radisson Little Island	09/10/13
Kilkenny:	Ormonde Hotel	10/10/13
Tipperary:	Clonmel Park	14/10/13
Dublin South:	Clarion Hotel Liffey Valley	24/10/13
Dublin North:	Hilton Northern Cross	05/11/13

Attendance is free and registration is available online only at: <http://ifan.ie/register-for-training/>

Registration and light refreshment: 18:30-19:30.

Presentation, Q & A: 19:30-21:00

Topics covered at the meetings:

- Clear definitions of IgE, non IgE mediated and mixed food allergy.
- How to diagnose food allergy and the role of an allergy focused clinical history.
- Validated testing for food allergy and statements on unvalidated testing.
- Managing food allergy in the community.
- Assessing resolution, how and where to do food challenges.
- Food allergen avoidance.
- Indications for adrenalin auto injector (AAI) prescription, education and training.
- Specific pathway for suspected cows' milk, egg, peanut and tree nut allergies.
- Common myths are addressed.

Smoking Cessation Training

The training dates for the next season of Brief Intervention Training have been uploaded to the HSE website and applications can be made by following the link below and choosing a specific course: [Brief Intervention Training Q4 2013](#).

If you would like to organise a specific training session, and can co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary group or a group of pharmacy staff (a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 staff), you can contact the relevant trainer directly who will be more than happy to facilitate a specific training course. The list of trainers for each region and their contact details are available [here](#).

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