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Overview



There have been changes here at the PSI since the last newsletter, with the Council appointing Marita Kinsella as PSI Registrar and CEO. Marita brings a diverse wealth of pharmacy experience and will be a valuable resource to the PSI in continuing to develop pharmacy practice in Ireland and maximise the role of pharmacists and pharmacies in the development of a more integrated approach to healthcare.

This month's newsletter contains information updates from the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) on the list of interchangeable medicines and changes to legislation governing the sale of cosmetic products. Also in this newsletter is the opportunity for pharmacists to join the Irish branch of the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group and CPD opportunities which may be of interest.

Finally, a reminder that PSI registrants who hold a Certificate of Registration expiring on the 31st December 2013 may now apply for continued registration for 2014, and the PSI is currently undertaking a public consultation process in relation to accreditation standards for the five year fully integrated Masters degree in pharmacy.

PSI Public Consultation on Draft Accreditation Standards

The PSI has issued draft accreditation standards for public consultation in connection with the implementation of the new five-year fully integrated Masters degree programme in pharmacy.

The draft accreditation standards are designed to provide a description of what is expected of the provider responsible for the teaching, learning and assessment associated with the programme.

A reminder that the closing date for submissions is **Monday, 11 November 2013 at 12 noon**. Full details can be found on the [PSI website](#).

Interchangeable Medicines List Updates

Following the launch on 7th August 2013 of the initial list of interchangeable medicines containing atorvastatin products within four separate groups, the IMB has since added a further four active substances to the list: pravastatin, omeprazole, esomeprazole and rosuvastatin.

The IMB is currently undertaking a consultation process in relation to lansoprazole, quetiapine and ramipril. If these consultations are concluded positively, it is anticipated that the medicines that are interchangeable will be published on the list shortly. Information relating to consultations and updates to the interchangeable medicines list can be viewed in the Generic and Interchangeable Medicines section of the [IMB website](#).

As the List of Interchangeable Medicines is subject to regular updates, all pharmacists are encouraged to subscribe to the IMB website updates service to receive email and/or SMS alerts of changes to the list. Using this facility, pharmacists can select their areas of interest for the purpose of receiving IMB updates. The new update option 'Generic and Interchangeable Medicines List' is now available for selection. Those pharmacists already subscribed to the IMB update service should ensure that they additionally subscribe to the 'Generic and Interchangeable Medicines List' using the [manage my subscriptions service](#).

Legislation on the Sale of Cosmetic Products

On 11th July 2013 new laws came into force impacting retailers who sell cosmetic products in Ireland. The IMB has developed guidance and an [information leaflet](#) for retailers of cosmetic products to raise awareness of the new legal requirements and to assist retailers to meet their legal obligations. Further information is available from cosmetics@imb.ie or the relevant section of the [IMB website](#).

NCSS Information for Health Professionals

The National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS), established in January 2007, is part of the Health Service Executive National Cancer Control Programme. The NCSS provides [four population-based screening programmes](#) - **BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen** and **Diabetic RetinaScreen**. All are free to those eligible and designed to be as accessible and user-friendly as possible. The NCSS informs and educates the public on the benefits, limits and availability of the screening programmes so people can make an informed decision about their participation.

The NCSS provides and attends a number of information and educational events for health professionals, including pharmacists, and community groups. The NCSS Screening Promotion team work with community groups and health professionals who would like to collaborate in order to increase awareness and reduce barriers which prevent people from accessing the screening services. **If you would like to find out more please contact:** screening.promotion@cancerscreening.ie.

The NCSS appreciates the important role that pharmacists play in informing and supporting the public in accessing these government-funded, quality assured screening programmes. Pharmacists can download an information poster for promotion of these services [here](#). For more information see cancerscreening.ie.

Opportunity to Join Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group

The Irish branch of the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG) has recently been re-established. This group welcomes pharmacists working in the areas of neonatology, paediatrics and women's health. Any pharmacist with an interest in these areas is also welcome to join this group. The aim of the NPPG is to facilitate the sharing and discussion of medication management to improve pharmaceutical care in these areas. The group also provides an educational forum for pharmacists working in these clinical areas, and a one day conference will be held next March in RCSI.

Meetings are held every two months in various locations in Dublin, and teleconferencing is available for pharmacists outside Dublin to join the meetings. The next meeting will be held in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin on Thursday 14th November. Anne Clohessy can be contacted for further information at amclohessy@rcsi.ie.

Upcoming CPD Opportunities

TCD - Cardiology Course

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin is now receiving applications for the February 2014 intake of the **Cardiology in Clinical Pharmacy Practice** module. This is open to registered pharmacists working in hospital or community practice. The course entails 12 weeks engagement, predominantly online, and will carry 5 credits under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The closing date for applications is 31st December 2013.

Further information can be found on the [TCD Pharmacy Website](#). Application forms and information are available from Niamh McMahon, Course Coordinator nmcmahon@tcd.ie; or Cynthia Mannion, Executive Officer cmannion@stjames.ie or by phone 01-416 2586/2467.

Continued Registration 2014

As previously circulated, PSI registrants who hold a Certificate of Registration expiring on the 31st December 2013 may now apply online or by post for continued registration for 2014. Click here to [Login Online and Apply for Continued Registration](#). For further information see the [PSI Website](#).

PSI Recruitment

The PSI is seeking to recruit two pharmacist inspectors on a three year contract basis. Further details can be found on the [PSI website](#). **The closing date for applications is Friday 15th of November 2013 at 5:00pm.**

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