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Overview

This issue of the PSI newsletter provides details of the public consultation now open to consider PSI draft Guidance on the Delivery of Prescription-only Medicines from Retail Pharmacy Businesses. Information is also provided for pharmacists on the requirements for generic substitution of medicines that are not included in the Irish Medicine Board's List of Interchangeable Medicines.

Also included is a call for expressions of interest from community and hospital pharmacists to sit on a PSI Expert Group that will assist in the development of a new PSI inspection policy.

There are also details of the PSI Council approved training requirements for pharmacists wishing to provide the seasonal influenza vaccine during the 2014/2015 flu season and a number of upcoming CPD opportunities including notice of additional dates for IIOP information meetings. Finally, we take time to remember former PSI Registrar, Joe Cahill.

Public Consultation: Draft Guidance on the Delivery of Prescription-only Medicines

The PSI has issued draft Guidance on the Delivery of Prescription-only Medicines from a Retail Pharmacy Business (Pharmacy) for public consultation. The purpose of the guidance is to outline the requirements that must be fulfilled when a pharmacy provides a delivery service for prescription-only medicines to their patients.

The PSI would like to invite submissions to the consultation process and welcomes your feedback on the draft guidance. A copy of the consultation document is available on the [PSI website](#).

Comments on the draft guidance are welcome in writing, preferably by email to consultation@thePSI.ie or by post to Public Consultation, The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin 2. The closing date for receipt of submissions is **Friday 13th June, 2014**.

Call for Expressions of Interest for Inspection Policy Project Expert Group

The PSI is seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists for appointment to an Expert Group to provide technical advice and assist in the development of a new PSI inspection policy in line with the PSI Council's decision to commence a strategic review of the current inspection policy. Three pharmacists are sought, and applicants must be working in either community or hospital pharmacy. Further details and an application form are available on the [PSI website](#). Submissions must be received to EOI@thePSI.ie by **5pm on Tuesday 3rd June**.

The establishment of the Expert Group follows a decision by Council at its

February meeting to commence a strategic review of the PSI's inspection policy after it considered a report on national and international practice in relation to unannounced inspections, as well as the outcomes of the 2013/14 pilot of announced inspections conducted by the PSI. The report is available on the [PSI website](#).

Substitution of Medicines not included in the IMB List of Interchangeable Medicines

The PSI has received a number of queries from patients, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals on the requirements for generic substitution of medicines that are **not included** in the Irish Medicines Board's List of Interchangeable Medicines. The PSI has prepared [further information for pharmacists](#) to clarify the circumstances in which generic substitution is allowed and how patients can be advised and accommodated in their choice for a generic medicine or otherwise. Pharmacists should give consideration to whether a prescription has been issued using a brand or proprietary name or alternatively issued on a non-proprietary basis, and follow the steps outlined to determine the circumstances in which generic substitution may be appropriate.

Pharmacists have a very important role in providing information and education to patients on medicines and that role is particularly important when supplying a substitute medicinal product. Therefore, when a medicine is substituted, pharmacists must take time to ensure that patients receive appropriate counselling and that the patient understands the correct use of their medicines.

2014-2015 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Training

The mandatory training requirements for pharmacists wishing to provide the seasonal influenza vaccine during the 2014/2015 season are now available on the [PSI website](#). The course that a pharmacist will be required to attend depends on both the individual's previous training undertaken and vaccination experience. A tool to assess your training needs is detailed on the website. Details of approved training providers will be updated in due course.

Remembering former PSI Registrar Joe Cahill

Former Registrar Michael Joseph Cahill, Joe to those who knew him, passed away in early March in Dublin. Both a pharmacist and barrister, Joe began his career with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in 1963 and was appointed Registrar and Secretary of the Society in 1975, a position he held until retirement in May 1991. He worked in industry and private pharmacy practice before taking up his position with the Society as Assistant Registrar. With Professor Peter Weedle he co-authored the textbook entitled '*The Law relating to Medicines and Pharmacy in Ireland*' (1991). Joe is remembered as an approachable and knowledgeable gentleman, always willing to provide his guidance whenever necessary.

Upcoming CPD Opportunities

New Dates Added to Countrywide IIOP Information Meetings

The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) has added a number of extra dates and venues to the schedule of pharmacist information meetings held around the country. Pharmacists are encouraged to attend to meet with Peer Support Pharmacists in their area and to learn about the new continuing professional development (CPD) model and the IIOP's role and intended programmes. The two hour sessions are also designed to give pharmacists an opportunity to discuss CPD with colleagues as well as sharing their thoughts and feedback with the Institute. Dates and locations are available on

the [IIOP website](#).

Point of Care Testing Workshop

A multi-disciplinary workshop on point of care testing will take place in the Royal College of Surgeons, Kildare Street, Dublin on the 5th of June 2014. The event will consider developments in the area and practical applications for the community and hospital setting. This is open to all healthcare professionals and is free of charge. Further information is contained in [this flyer](#). It is advised that you book your place in advance.

Trinity College Dublin

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin is now accepting applications for:

Community Pharmacy (MSc./P.Grad.Dip.): The course has been specifically designed to meet the needs of practicing community pharmacists and the distance-learning format facilitates participants in full-time employment throughout the duration of study for the MSc/Postgraduate diploma. For further information and to apply, visit the [TCD website](#), email community.pharmacy@tcd.ie or phone 01 8963736. Closing date for applications is 30th June 2014 for the September intake.

Cardiology in Clinical Pharmacy Practice: The module is open to registered pharmacists working in hospital or community practice and entails 12 weeks engagement, predominantly online. The closing date for applications is 30th June 2014. Application forms and additional information are available on the [TCD website](#) or contact Niamh McMahon, Course Coordinator, cardioclinpharm@tcd.ie or Cynthia Mannion, Executive Officer, cmannion@stjames.ie or phone 01-416 2586/2467.

MSc. in Health Informatics: Applications are also welcomed to this Masters degree run jointly by the School of Computer Sciences & Statistics and School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin. The course aims to produce graduates who will play a leadership role in the eHealth strategy for Ireland. It equips students from both clinical and IT backgrounds with the knowledge and skills to enable the effective use of information and communications technology in the delivery of healthcare. For further information and to apply see the [TCD website](#), email events@scss.tcd.ie or phone 01 896 1765. Closing date for applications is 30th June 2014.

Haemochromatosis Awareness Day

The Haemochromatosis Association will hold its annual awareness day on Thursday 5th of June, when volunteers countrywide will seek support and raise awareness of the genetic disorder. Already this year the association sent brochures about haemochromatosis to every pharmacy in the country and appreciates the role of pharmacists in understanding and supporting the work of the association and patients affected by haemochromatosis. Further information is available on the Haemochromatosis Association [website](#).



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