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Overview

As the 'Future Pharmacy Practice' project progresses, wider stakeholder engagement is being sought, and we are inviting pharmacists from all areas of practice to participate in focus group meetings, which will take place in the coming weeks. The 'innovations portal' is closing tomorrow (Friday, 25 September) so if you have a practice initiative to contribute to the project, and have not already done so, please avail of this final opportunity to share your experiences.



In this issue we also provide draft guidance for pharmacists that has been developed to consider the safe and appropriate use of monitored dosage systems. A 30 day public consultation is underway and we invite your comments.

We also provide you with news of the public health leaflet that the PSI has produced about the sale of non-prescription medicines online. This 'plain English' guide will shortly be available nationwide.

At the 17 September meeting of the PSI Council, Caroline McGrath was elected as new Vice-President of the Council. Caroline is a clinical governance pharmacist for Boots Ireland and was appointed to the Council in October 2014.

Future Pharmacy Project - have your say!

As you may be aware, the PSI is undertaking a project on [Future Pharmacy Practice in Ireland](#). The key objectives of the project are to explore how pharmacists can most valuably contribute to the health and wellbeing of patients in Irish healthcare, identify innovative pharmacy services and outline a vision for the future direction of pharmacy in Ireland. This project is supported by the Department of Health and the HSE.

Pharmacists sought for Focus Groups

A key part of the project is consultation with pharmacists, patients and other key stakeholders. We will be holding a number of focus groups around the country to hear your ideas on what both pharmacy practice should look like in Ireland in the future and how future pharmacy practice can enhance the health and wellbeing of our population in the next decade and beyond.

Pharmacists across all areas of practice (community, hospital, education, industry, regulation, others) are sought for participation in these focus groups. The aim is to hold a number of sessions in a variety of locations around the country on evenings in October and early November. The meetings will be one and a half to two hours in duration, and will be co-ordinated by the appointed project consultants, PwC.

If you are interested in being part of this process we would ask you to email us **by Thursday, 8 October** so that we can co-ordinate meeting locations based on your responses. We will endeavour to include as many of you as

possible. In your email response to leanne.sisley@psi.ie please provide your name, your area of practice, your role (e.g. supervising pharmacist, oncology pharmacist) and your location. Inclusion of other towns/locations you would be willing to travel to would also be useful.

Consultation on Monitored Dosage Systems Guidance

The PSI is seeking your comments on draft Guidance for Pharmacists on the use of Monitored Dosage Systems. The purpose of this guidance is to assist pharmacists in making appropriate decisions about whether a Monitored Dosage System (MDS) is suitable for a particular patient. The guidance will also support pharmacists when assessing which medicinal products are suitable for inclusion in the MDS and will outline all requirements to ensure that safe MDS dispensing occurs.

A copy of the draft guidance and the short online questionnaire for comments are available in the Consultations section on the [PSI website](#). The closing date for receipt of submissions is **5pm on Friday, 23 October 2015**. As always, consideration will be given to all submissions and will inform the final guidance document. Your participation is appreciated.

PSI Medicines Safety Leaflet

The PSI has developed a public health leaflet called 'Buying non-prescription medicines safely online'. This was undertaken in order to communicate with the general public about the new EU 'Common Logo' and to promote understanding of the requirements now placed on sellers of online non-prescription medicines.

The leaflet has received the 'Plain English' mark from the National Adult Literacy Agency and will shortly be available in GP/health practices, libraries and citizen information centres nationwide. Pharmacists wishing to have leaflets available for their patients can email communications@psi.ie to request delivery to the pharmacy.



The PSI has been given responsibility by the Department of Health for the introduction of the regulatory system governing the [internet supply](#) of non-prescription medicines, to establish publically available internet supply lists, and raise awareness of the topic. The objective of the EU Falsified Medicines Directive is to prevent fake medicines being supplied to patients.

Five Year Fully Integrated Master's Degree Programmes in Pharmacy

At its meeting on 17 September 2015, the PSI Council approved and recognised the five-year fully integrated Master's degree programmes in pharmacy to be provided by the three schools of pharmacy, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork. The [restructured qualification](#) for pharmacists commences for the first time in all three schools of pharmacy in September this year. Students beginning their pharmacy education and training from September 2015 will undertake the restructured five-year programme which will become the qualification for practice for newly-qualifying pharmacists in Ireland from 2020 onwards when the first cohort graduate.

Update on Inspection Policy Project

Work on the project to implement and develop the PSI's inspection policy for routine pharmacy inspections is continuing. Information on the policy

updates is available on the [PSI website](#).

Five focus group meetings on the design and development of a self-audit tool for pharmacies were held by the PSI in July and August in a number of locations around the country. The project team would like to thank all those pharmacists who participated in these meetings, providing their time and expertise. Information provided at those meetings and a summary of feedback received has been made available on the project page of the [website](#).

Work is continuing on the design and development of a prototype self-audit tool, taking into account the views and suggestions made during the focus group meetings.

If you are interested in participating in future elements of the Inspection Policy Project, the PSI would like to hear from you. You can register your interest by emailing your details to inspectionproject@psi.ie. Further updates on the project will continue to be made available on the website and in the newsletters.

HPRA Drug Safety Newsletter

The latest (7th edition) of the HPRA's [Drug Safety Newsletter](#) is now available and includes important updates to support safe and appropriate use of the following medicines:

- Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIS)- Very rare reports of subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE)
- Donepezil-Reports of Rhabdomyolysis

Upcoming CPD Opportunities

IIOP ePortfolio Information Events

Throughout September and October, the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) will host ePortfolio Information events at locations around the country.

The events will be delivered both by way of face to face meetings and five options to participate by webinar. The content delivered in the webinar will be similar to the in-person meetings but will be accessed through an online meeting room. For locations, dates and to book your place, visit the Events section on the [IIOP website](#).

The events focus on providing information on how the IIOP ePortfolio and Core Competency Self-Assessment Tool (CCSAT) can be used to support your CPD. The event also includes live demonstrations on how you can use the IIOP ePortfolio and CCSAT, as well as information about how you can access resources to support your use of the IIOP ePortfolio.

IPU Academy Autumn 2015 Programme

The Autumn Programme of the IPU Academy is now in progress with courses running nationwide from Monday 14 September until Wednesday 11 November. Information is available on the [IPU Academy website](#) or in this [programme brochure](#).

Other Notices

Tomorrow is World Pharmacists Day

Friday, 25 September marks World Pharmacists Day in conjunction with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). This year's theme is "*Pharmacists: Your partners in health*".

World Pharmacists Day encourages activities that promote and advocate for the role of the pharmacist in improving health throughout the world. Every day three million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists around the world act as partners to patients and other health care professionals, as well as to government and decision-makers, with the shared vision of delivering health and medicines expertise. Visit the [FIP website](#) for additional information and resources.

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

This week is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week, 21 to 27 September, and Gas Networks Ireland appreciate the role that all health professionals play in supporting this important public health initiative. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a preventable cause of death that is highlighted annually at this time of year. Greater awareness of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure in patients will help to save lives and prevent unnecessary suffering. Further information, posters and leaflets for your pharmacy, can be received by contacting [Gas Networks Ireland](#) on 1850 200 694 or email networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie.

Recruitment - APPEL National Coordinator

The three Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland (UCC, RCSI, and TCD) have formed the Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning (APPEL) to manage the experiential learning portions of the new integrated MPharm degrees. APPEL is now seeking a senior candidate to head this office, coordinate the development and administration of the experiential learning, and engage with the Irish pharmacy community as a whole. [View detailed information on the role and application process.](#)

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