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## Overview

Over the coming weeks, we are seeking your feedback to assist us in improving our website and newsletter. We want to ensure our communications are user-friendly and align with the needs of all our users. We would greatly appreciate your comments through this [online survey](#).



Following a public consultation during the summer, this issue provides notice of the finalised guidance for pharmacists on personal supervision and therapeutic review when dispensing medicines (Regulation 9).

We also welcome any final comments that stakeholders may wish to provide to the [current public consultation](#) considering draft guidance for the use of monitored dosage systems (MDS) in pharmacies. That consultation will close tomorrow, Friday 23 October.

This issue also provides a link to a recent guide on biosimilars from the Health Products Regulatory Authority, and we update you on a nationwide patient review being conducted on the flu vaccination service in pharmacies. At this time of year, we also take the opportunity to remind many PSI registrants of their continued registration deadlines and the options for making their applications.

## Future Pharmacy Practice Project – Thank you

Last month, as part of the [Future Pharmacy Practice](#) project, we invited pharmacists to submit examples of innovative work and thoughts on future pharmacy practice. We were delighted to receive 140 submissions through the online innovations portal, with projects spanning the community, hospital and academic pharmacy practice areas. This has captured the innovative work that so many pharmacists and pharmacy teams are doing as part of daily professional practice. Initial review of the submissions has shown mini pilots and proof of concepts that mirror the work we have researched in other jurisdictions, and which provide a much needed local evidence base.

### Focus group update

A key part of the project is consultation with pharmacists, patients and other key stakeholders. We have had a very positive response to the [call for pharmacists to participate in focus groups](#). These meetings are planned for November. Those who have responded to take part, will be contacted separately by the focus group organisers. In addition, focus groups will be held with patient/general public users of pharmacy services. If you (as a patient or carer), or your patient organisation is interested in participating in these focus groups, please [email us](#) for information.

## Guidelines on Counselling and Medicine Therapy Review

The PSI Council has approved Guidelines on the Counselling and Medicine Therapy Review in the Supply of Prescribed Medicinal Products from a Retail Pharmacy Business. The purpose of these guidelines is to facilitate compliance with Regulation 9 of the Regulation of Retail Pharmacy Businesses Regulations (S.I. No. 488 of 2008).

As a recognised expert in the use of medicines, on receipt of a prescription, pharmacists have a unique opportunity and duty to optimise the use of medicines and ensure the safety of patients by carrying out a pharmaceutical and therapeutic review. These guidelines outline the legislative basis underpinning this review. The guidelines are intended to assist pharmacists in fulfilling this responsibility, by outlining what must and should be considered by them when performing a therapeutic assessment of prescriptions and when counselling patients on their prescribed medicinal products. Additionally, Appendix 1 of the guidelines sets out the requirements for the legal supply of prescribed medicinal products.

As always, we appreciate and thank all those who contributed to the consultation on this guideline, and the report summarising the comments received is available on the [Consultations](#) section of the PSI website.

The guidelines can be viewed and downloaded from the [PSI website](#), as part of the electronic version of the Pharmacy Practice Guidance Folder. A hard copy of the guidelines will be sent to every pharmacy in the coming months, for inclusion in the folder.

## Your feedback on the PSI website and newsletter

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Over the next two weeks we are asking users of the PSI website and recipients of this newsletter to provide feedback on these communication tools. As you will be aware, the PSI communicates predominantly using electronic updates by email, newsletter and by making information available on our website.

In order to continue to improve the user experience and to ensure that information is made accessible in the best way possible, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. Your responses will be used to make any necessary future improvements to our website and newsletter.

We appreciate hearing from you through this [online survey](#). Thank you in advance for participating.

## New Emergency Medicines and Vaccines Legislation

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On 15 October, the [Minister for Health announced](#) new legislation that amends the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations. These amending Regulations make a number of changes to the availability of certain prescription-only medicines in emergency situations, as well as providing that additional vaccines, namely Pneumococcal and Herpes Zoster (shingles) vaccines, may be delivered by pharmacists, following the completion of PSI-approved training.

It is expected that the amended regulations will be published on [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie) in the coming days, and we will subsequently issue more information.

Further detail is provided in this [information email](#) to pharmacists, which was issued by the PSI last week.

## Patient Feedback on the Flu Vaccination Service in Pharmacies

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The PSI is undertaking a project to request feedback from patients on their experience in receiving their flu vaccination in a pharmacy. It is envisaged that the project will gather information on the patient perspective of this important service, including why patients choose to avail of this service in a pharmacy.

In order for the research to be valid, we are inviting as many patients as possible to participate in the project. A random selection of pharmacies providing the flu vaccine service have been invited to participate in this review. If your pharmacy has been chosen, you have already been contacted, and you will shortly receive follow-up information on this research work. We really appreciate pharmacists' time and assistance with this review.

The comments that patients provide will be anonymous and will not be linked to an individual pharmacy or pharmacist; the feedback will be compiled as part of a published report on the overall patient experience of this service.

## **HPRA Guide to Biosimilars for Healthcare Professionals and Patients**

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The Health Products Regulator Authority (HPRA) has developed a guide to provide information on the regulation, prescribing, dispensing, supply and traceability of biosimilar medicines in Ireland. The guide is not only relevant to healthcare professionals, but is also relevant to patients, manufacturers, distributors and those involved in hospital procurement.

The [Guide to Biosimilars for Healthcare Professionals and Patients](#) is available on the HPRA website.

## **Continued Registration Updates**

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All PSI registrants whose Certificates of Registration expire on 31 December 2015 may now apply online or by post for continued registration for 2016.

The online system is the easiest and quickest way to apply for annual continued registration, and is available 24 hours a day. Click here to [login online and apply for your continued registration](#). To apply online, registrants need their PSI registrant username, PIN and password. If you have misplaced your pin and/or password, you can quickly reset these details online using the [Forgotten Login Details](#) tab in the online registration section, or by phoning the continued registration helpline for assistance: 1850 774 734.

### **Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Assistants**

As advised in previous newsletters, the PSI is no longer issuing hard copy renewal forms for pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants. You are instead issued with a single page letter by post and an email reminding you of your expiry date and option to apply either online or to download the application form. This will be the only hard copy correspondence issued in the continued registration process. If people still wish to access a hard copy application form for continued registration, you can:

- A. download the form when you log-in to your online registration portal - print and complete the hardcopy format and return as in previous years to the PSI, or
- B. contact the PSI to send one to you for your completion and return by post.

Voluntary cancellation forms, checklist forms and the online guidance leaflet continue to be accessible on the [continued registration page](#) of the PSI website.

## Pharmacies

In August, the PSI introduced a new electronic funds transfer (EFT)/bank transfer payment option for postal applications for the continued registration of pharmacies. This option has now been expanded to include online applications made from October onwards.

The ability to reconcile EFT payments to applications is key to ensuring this new system works both efficiently and effectively. The [Guide to Continued Registration for Pharmacies](#) has been updated to assist with your application process and particularly with the new payment option.

Your co-operation in making a prompt application and payment, either online or by post, is greatly appreciated.

## Other Notices

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### Skin Cancer Prevention Action Plan

The Irish Cancer Society and National Cancer Control Programme are working together to develop a Skin Cancer Prevention Action Plan for Ireland.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Ireland and projections are for the incidence and mortality to rise significantly over the next 25 years. However, most cases of skin cancer are preventable. Detailed information may be found in this [National Cancer Registry report](#).

Pharmacists are asked to participate in an online survey, open from 9 to 27 November 2015 on the [Irish Cancer Society website](#). This seeks to gauge what skin cancer prevention activities are taking place, and opinions on what should be considered when drafting the Action Plan. The data is intended to assist in developing an Action Plan that is relevant to the Irish population. For additional information, contact [Rosemary Scott](#), Cancer Prevention Information Development Officer, Irish Cancer Society at 01 2310579 or [Dr Barbara McGrogan](#), Research Scientist, National Cancer Control Programme at 01 8287169.

## Upcoming CPD Opportunities

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### CPD modules, UCC

University College Cork is now offering modules that are part of its Masters programme in Clinical Pharmacy as individual CPD modules in the School of Pharmacy, College of Medicine and Health. The modules commencing in January 2016 include: Coagulation Management, Pharmacoeconomics, Pharmacotherapy of Special Populations, and Health Literacy for Health and Social Care Settings.

Further information including contact details can be found in this [brochure](#) and on the [UCC School of Pharmacy website](#).

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