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Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

In this month's newsletter we are pleased to issue on behalf of the HSE a call for expressions of interest from pharmacists to join three additional clinical care programmes as pharmacy liaisons – Epilepsy, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Prevention of Chronic Disease.

We also bring you an update on the first year of work of the National Forum for Pharmacy Education and Accreditation, which is overseeing the implementation of the reform of undergraduate education and training.

This month we continue the series of advisory articles from PSI Inspectors, with the second of three articles on animal remedies.

Finally, reminders will be going out shortly to all registrants whose annual certificates of registration expire on 31st December 2012 to apply for continued registration for 2013, and you are encouraged to use the online facility accessible via the PSI website to apply and pay your registration fee.

Pharmacy Liaisons Required

The PSI and HSE Clinical Strategies and Programmes Directorate have been co-operating since 2010 on an initiative to ensure and support pharmacy engagement with the various clinical care programmes of the Directorate.

To date 23 pharmacy liaisons have been appointed to a range of programmes which aim to improve and standardise patient care in the various clinical areas.

Expressions of interest are now sought from pharmacists with an interest and/or expertise in the following areas:

- **Epilepsy**
- **Obstetrics and Gynaecology**
- **Prevention of Chronic Disease**

Further information about the epilepsy and obstetrics and gynaecology programmes are available on the [HSE Website](#).

The Prevention of Chronic Disease Programme (PCDP) aims to address the different stages of prevention of key chronic diseases across the different healthcare settings, and will work with the existing clinical programmes for the major chronic diseases.

The Successful Candidates

The successful candidates will be registered pharmacists, preferably with a minimum of three years' post-registration experience. A postgraduate qualification will be desirable but not essential. Practice experience in one or more of the disease areas listed above, a willingness to work constructively in multidisciplinary teams and a passionate interest in the pursuit of excellence in patient care and pharmacy practice are essential.

Successful candidates will also be: team players, innovative, influential, self-starting and goal-orientated, with a strategic focus. Excellent IT skills and familiarity with pharmacy software systems are also essential.

Expressions of Interest

Please forward a CV, together with a short letter outlining your expertise, track record and vision for the future in the relevant disease area(s) to: Tom.Jordan@thepsi.ie by **Friday 23rd November 2012**.

Any queries can only be dealt with by email to Tom.Jordan@thepsi.ie

Continued Registration 2013

Registrants (pharmacists, pharmaceutical assistants and retail pharmacy business owners) whose certificate of registration expires on 31st December 2012 may now apply for continued registration for 2012 online via the following link on the PSI website: [Login in and Apply for Continued Registration](#) .

You can also access this facility from the main PSI website www.thePSI.ie and then select the Registrant Login link. When you apply online you will be able to access a copy of your Continued Registration notice form – please note application forms will shortly be issued by post by the PSI.

To avoid the imposition of a late fee, registrants are strongly advised to comply with the requirement to apply for Continued Registration on or before the 1st December 2012.

To avail of our online facility you will need your PSI registrant **PIN** and **PASSWORD** that have been issued to you.

- If you require a **NEW PASSWORD**, simply click on the “**Forgotten Login Details**” link which can be found on the login page and follow the steps on-screen to change your password.
- If you require a **NEW PIN**, again simply click on the “**Forgotten Login Details**” link and follow the steps on-screen to change your PIN.
- If you are having difficulties with your online application for continued registration, or with requesting new login details you can call the PSI online continued registration helpline on **1850 PSI REG (1850 774 734)**. The helpline is open from Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm until the end of December.

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

National Forum Update

The National Forum for Pharmacy Education and Accreditation has been working since August 2011 in progressing the implementation of the PEARs report and the introduction of a fully integrated five-year Masters qualification for practice. The Forum, which is chaired by Law Reform Commissioner Marian Shanley, comprises a wide range of stakeholders, including the Schools of Pharmacy and practitioners from the various practice areas of the profession.

Over the past year the Forum has made some significant progress on its remit, including:

- Agreeing a framework for developing the integrated degree, which will incorporate experiential and practice setting based learning in each of the five years with two main placements: a four/six month placement in fourth year and an eight month placement in the fifth year
- Development of the framework for an Office of Experiential Learning which will assist the Schools, tutors and students in organising and supporting the practice placements
- Assisting the schools of pharmacy in identifying a funding model for the five-year integrated degree
- Engaging with a wide range of key stakeholders both within and beyond the pharmacy profession

Draft Accreditation Standards for the Five-Year Fully Integrated Masters Programme in Pharmacy have also been developed by the PSI and these will shortly be issued for public consultation.

Regarding the interim National Pharmacy Internship Programme, it has been agreed by the PSI Council and RCSI that the RCSI will provide this programme for the 2013/2014 academic year.

Further information about the National Forum is available on the [PSI website](#).

PSI Inspectors advice on animal remedies (Part 2)

As a follow up to the June newsletter “Inspectors Advice on Animal Remedies” which examined the classifications, storage and record keeping requirements for animal remedies, this month we will review:

- The requirements which veterinary prescriptions must meet
- Endorsing requirements for veterinary prescriptions

The legislation which governs these areas is set out in The European Communities (Animal Remedies)(No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 786 of 2007) (as amended), which can be accessed in full via www.irishstatutebook.ie or via the PSI website www.thepsi.ie. All pharmacists engaging in the sale and supply of animal remedies must ensure they are familiar with all aspects of these regulations.

Veterinary Prescription Requirements

Animal remedies designated **Prescription Only (POM)** may be sold/supplied by a pharmacist from a pharmacy, in accordance with a veterinary prescription. (In emergency circumstances, the legislation provides for the “emergency supply” of a prescription only animal remedy to be made at the request of a vet. These “emergency supply” provisions shall be discussed in a later newsletter.)

Before a pharmacist dispenses a prescription only animal remedy, they must review the veterinary prescription to ensure that the prescription meets the legislative requirements. The prescription must:

- Be in ink
- Be issued and signed by a registered veterinary practitioner
- Bear the name and address of the vet in block capital letters
- Contain a declaration that the prescription is granted in respect of an animal under the prescribing vet’s care
- Be assigned a serial number
- Specify a date of issue and period of validity
- Specify the name and address of the person to whom the prescription is granted
- Contain a description of the animal or animals to which the prescription relates
- Contain details of the animal remedy prescribed, including the remedy’s name and veterinary product authorisation (VPA) number
- Specify the quantity of the animal remedy prescribed
- Specify the dose rate
- Specify the manner and site of administration
- Specify the withdrawal period to be observed and any special instructions, precautions or risks, where applicable

A veterinary prescription may not be dispensed later than 12 months after the date of issue and the pharmacist must be satisfied that it is safe to dispense the animal remedy as prescribed.

Please note that a faxed copy or photocopy of a veterinary prescription is not an original, valid prescription and may not be used to authorise the supply of a prescription only animal remedy.

Endorsing Requirements For Veterinary Prescriptions

The European Communities (Animal Remedies)(No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 786 of 2007) (as amended) require that veterinary prescriptions are marked (endorsed) in the following way:

When a veterinary prescription is dispensed in full, the prescription must be:

- marked with the word “dispensed”,
- marked with the date of supply and
- signed by the pharmacist.

The prescription must be retained at the pharmacy for five years and made available to inspectors upon request.

Where a veterinary prescription is partially dispensed, the prescription must be endorsed with:

- the quantity of medicine supplied,
- the date supplied and
- signed by the pharmacist.

Where the veterinary prescription is partially dispensed, the legislation states that a copy of the prescription must be retained at the pharmacy. The copy must also be marked with the quantity supplied, date of dispensing and signed by the pharmacist. The original prescription may then be returned to the person to whom the prescription was granted. As with prescriptions which have been dispensed in full, copies of prescriptions must be retained at the pharmacy for five years and made available to inspectors upon request.

Don’t forget to record the details of the dispensing in the animal remedies register.

PIER Group established

PIER (Pharmacists in Industry Education and Regulatory) is an interest group that has recently formed to represent the interests of pharmacists in Ireland who work outside of the traditional patient-facing, dispensing roles.

Over 200 pharmacists work in the various sectors that support the Irish pharmaceutical industry and education sectors. The main objectives of PIER are to promote the professional status of these pharmacists in Ireland and to support their further education as a formal CPD system is implemented. PIER will also support the three Schools of Pharmacy in the rollout of the fully integrated MPharm degree.

The group also hopes to provide an opportunity for these pharmacists to meet, network and discuss issues of interest. The first PIER committee meeting took place on 4th July 2012 and a launch event is planned for November 2012.

If you are interested in being kept informed of PIER's activities or potentially becoming a member of PIER, please email membership@pier.ie

Notification pursuant to section 57 (i) of the Pharmacy Act 2007

Mr Craig Eric Bennett MPSI Reg. No. 9837 (Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland Reg. No. 2888)

Following a Fitness to Practise hearing on 28th June 2012, the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland determined that Mr Craig Eric Bennett (Reg. No. 2888) be struck off the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in Northern Ireland under Article 20(1) of the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 No. 1213 (N.I.22).

On the 29th September 2012 the name of Mr Craig Eric Bennett was removed from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in accordance with the direction of the Statutory Committee at its hearing on 28th June 2012.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, at its meeting on 19th September 2012, decided that it is in the public interest to give notice of the action taken by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

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