



# Submission to the Draft National Infection Prevention and Control Standards for Community Services

March 2018

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland  
PSI House, 15-19 Fenian Street  
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**Re: Draft national infection prevention and control standards for community services**

**Submission from the PSI - the Pharmacy Regulator**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) is an independent statutory body, established under the Pharmacy Act 2007 (the 'Act'). It is charged with, and is accountable for, the effective regulation of pharmacy services in Ireland, including responsibility for supervising compliance with the Act. The PSI is also charged with ensuring compliance with certain medicines and controlled drugs legislation. It works for the public interest to protect the health and safety of the public by regulating the pharmacy profession and pharmacies.

The PSI welcome this opportunity to make a submission to the draft national infection prevention and control standards for community services.

The PSI has reviewed the draft revised national standards, and consider the draft standards very clear and easy to understand. The PSI fully support the aim of the standards, to encourage a multidisciplinary team-based approach, within all community health and social care services outside the acute hospital setting, to support safe healthcare associated infection prevention and control practices within the services for patients. The PSI is aware that the introduction of antimicrobial stewardship, including specialist antimicrobial pharmacists, has been found to have a strong positive effect in a number of Irish hospitals. The PSI considers that the draft standards provide a robust framework to improve the existing procedures in place regarding the prevention and control of Healthcare Associated Infections, and to ensure consistency in approach and outcome by all providers. In particular, the PSI welcomes the recognition of the role of the pharmacist in implementation of support arrangements to ensure the delivery of safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship.

The PSI would recommend that under *Section 3 Scope of the National Standards* (page 9), specific reference be made to retail pharmacy businesses (i.e. pharmacies) in addition to those presently included (i.e. general practices and dental practices). Upon the finalisation of the National Standards, the PSI would encourage their adoption by all retail pharmacy businesses, to promote improvements in the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections.

The PSI would again like to express our support for the new standards and would be happy to contribute to the further development of the standards.

**PSI – the Pharmacy Regulator**

**March 2018**