

FIPed Global Survey on Advanced Practice and Specialization

This global survey aims to collect information regarding the status of advanced practice and specialization of the pharmacy workforce globally. The data will be used to identify gaps, shortages and cooperation opportunities, and will provide the evidence-based information needed for investment policies that will reduce existing gaps and increase pharmacy education capacity and workforce development.

Please reply to this questionnaire on behalf of **your country**. Deadline for submission is the **15th of March**.

To know more about general credentialing (or professional recognition) processes used by professional organizations, please refer to the article *Am J Health-Syst Pharm – Vol 71 Nov 1, 2014* available [here](#).

Country and contact information

1. Country information	
State the country, state or province these responses represent <i>[Please provide country level data if available]</i>	Ireland
2. Contact completing this questionnaire	
Title	Mr.
First name	Conor
Last name	O'Leary
Job title	Senior Pharmacist Advisor
Organisation/Agency	The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland – The Pharmacy Regulator
Email address	conor.oleary@thepsi.ie
Website	http://www.thepsi.ie/gns/home.aspx
Phone number <i>[country code/number]</i>	00353/(0)1 218 4000
Address	PSI House, Fenian Street Dublin 2 Ireland
3. Background	
Do you have a regulatory or licensing authority (for example government related) for pharmacists, which is <u>separate</u> from other professional leadership bodies/professional associations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recognition of advanced practice and specialization of pharmacists

4. Definitions:	
a) Does your country have an agreed definition of specialization? <i>If yes, please provide details including who developed the agreed definition, the definition itself and a reference if possible:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes s

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global federation of national organisations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists dedicated to improving the global health by advancing pharmacy practice and science to enable better discovery, development, access to and safe use of appropriate, cost-effective, quality medicines worldwide.

<p>Currently, no definition of specialization has been established in Ireland. However, Section 7 (1) (d) of the Pharmacy Act 2007 (as amended) places the acquisition of specialization by pharmacists under the direct remit of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI). This is a mandated function of the PSI, with the legislation stating that one of the primary functions of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland is “to ensure that pharmacists undertake appropriate continuing professional development, including the acquisition of specialization”. This legislation can be accessed here.</p> <p>However the PSI has established the Core Competency Framework for Pharmacists (CCF). This is an important development for the profession as this framework is the cornerstone of the PSI’s programme to reform the education and training of pharmacists; both in terms of the initial qualification for practice and also to inform a pharmacist’s engagement with lifelong learning, including the mandatory system of continuing professional development (CPD) for pharmacists in Ireland. The CCF has been placed on a statutory footing in the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Education and Training) (Integrated Course) Rules 2014 (see PSI website at http://thepsi.ie/Libraries/Legislation/SI_2014_0377_PSI_Education_and_Training_Integrated Course Rules 2014.sflb.ashx).</p> <p>The competency framework for pharmacists will be used for a number of purposes including the provision of a platform for the development of specialization and advanced practice within pharmacy.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N O
<p>b) Does your country have an agreed definition of advanced practice? <i>If yes, please provide details including who developed the agreed definition, the definition itself and a reference if possible:</i></p> <p>In the Irish context, the aforementioned Pharmacy Act 2007 (as amended) makes provisions for the “acquisition of specialization”, with the concepts of advanced practice still in development. Currently the mandatory CPD system for Irish pharmacists is in the initial phase of implementation and following the establishment of this system, advanced practice will be defined and introduced in a timely manner.</p> <p>A definition of advanced practice has yet to be established, however the PSI has worked on the development the <i>Pharmacy Ireland 2020</i> initiative. Through this initiative the PSI has sought to encourage, facilitate and support the greater involvement of pharmacists in the delivery of integrated, patient-centred, cost-effective health services, and the development of pharmacy services in Ireland in line with international evidence and best practice. An interim report was published and can be accessed here. Work is still ongoing in this area, with the publication of the Baseline Study of Community Pharmacy Practice in Ireland, the Baseline Study of Hospital Pharmacy in Ireland and the initiation of the <i>Future Pharmacy Practice Project</i> by the PSI. This latter project aims to examine how best pharmacy practice in Ireland can meet patients’ needs in the future by engaging with patients, policy makers, pharmacists and other relevant stakeholders. The results of this project are expected to be published in early 2016.</p> <p><i>For example in Australia the agreed definition can be found here (page 6).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N O

5. Developmental Frameworks	
a) Does your country have a Framework to describe specialization (narrow scope) and/or generic advanced pharmacy practice (broad scope of practice)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, but we are currently developing one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) What was the process for development?	<input type="checkbox"/> Developed entirely at national level <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted from another country, framework or document <input type="checkbox"/> Revised from another country and adopted according to your country needs
6. Regulation	
Is there any form of regulated specialization and/or advanced practice in your country? <i>If yes, please describe details, including e.g. - who is responsible for this regulation; what are the governance arrangements; is there a requirement for a specific education programme; what titles are in use and are there any pre-requisites?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N o
7. Professional recognition	
Is there professional recognition of specialization and/or advanced practice in your country (e.g. does a pharmacy professional body award a title in recognition of advanced practice or specialization)? <i>If yes, please describe details, including for example - who is responsible for this recognition; what are the governance arrangements; is there a requirement for a specific education programme; what titles are in use and are there any pre-requisites?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N o
8. Abbreviations/Post nominal	
a) Do pharmacists in your country use abbreviations after or before their name (e.g. post nominal such as APP for Advanced Practice Pharmacist) to recognise specialization and/or advanced practice? <i>If yes, please describe the post-nominals available:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N o
b) Does your organisation have any form of abbreviation/post nominal to recognise specialization and/or advanced practice for their members? <i>If yes, please describe the post-nominals available:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N o
9. Role of your organisation	
Does your organisation play a role in the recognition of specialization and/or advanced practice? <i>If yes, please describe your organisation's role:</i> See response under 4(a) above regarding the statutory role of the PSI as the pharmacy regulator and its function in ensuring the acquisition of specialization.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input type="checkbox"/> N o
10. Prescribing	
a) Is there any <u>legal provision</u> for pharmacists to <u>independently</u> prescribe medicines (other than "over the counter" medicines) <i>If yes please describe the model/credentials or qualifications of pharmacists prescribing, and what is required for pharmacists to gain prescribing rights:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N o
b) Is prescribing linked with recognition of specialization and/or advanced practice in your country? <i>If yes, please describe how:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ye s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N o

Development of advanced practice and specialization

11. Academic qualifications	
a) Do you have a requirement for formal university based academic qualifications for recognition as a specialist and/or advanced practitioner? <i>If yes, please describe the qualifications required:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

<p>b) Is there a formal academic pathway to specialization and/or advanced practice in your country? (e.g. is there a master's degree which leads to recognition as an advanced practitioner or specialist?)</p> <p><i>If yes, please describe the pathway:</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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12. Professional development and support

<p>a) Does your organisation offer specific professional development and support to members to assist them in developing specialized and/or advanced practice (beyond that offered for CPD/CE)?</p> <p><i>If yes, please provide details:</i></p> <p>Although Ireland has not yet developed a formal programme of specific professional development to assist pharmacists in evolving their advanced and specialized practice, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland has established The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) to oversee the development and management of the continuing professional development (CPD) system for the pharmacy profession in Ireland. The PSI will work with the IloP in any future development of the accreditation and recognition of specialization in the pharmacy profession. The IloP's website can be accessed here.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Formal professional recognition

13. Recognition/additional licensing/privileging/credentialing

<p>In your country, following initial registration and licensing as a pharmacist, are there opportunities to gain a <u>formal</u> recognition (in some cases, credentialing/privileging or professional recognition*) in specialized or advanced areas?</p> <p><i>If yes, please describe:</i></p> <p><i>*e.g. professional recognition, including a formalized "speciality", of a personal title such as "advanced practitioner", or "specialist pharmacist". This would be a formal recognition, not simply a job description.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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14. Benefits

<p>Are there tangible benefits for pharmacists recognised as specialists or advanced practitioners?</p> <p><i>If yes, please describe (e.g. career pathway or remuneration):</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Related documents

<p>Please include any relevant <u>document</u> or <u>citation</u> (report, research, article references) related to specialization and/or advanced practice in your country with the submission of this</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information on website (Please
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survey.	specify the URL address: Citation: Irish Institute of Pharmacy Pharmacy Ireland 2020 Core Competency Framework of PSI Continuing Professional Development
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Your participation in this survey is vital to provide a better understanding of current status of specialization and/or advanced practice globally, and will assist in the development of global pharmacy education policy recommendations.

Please save the completed form and return to education@fip.org

[Thank you for your participation](#)