



Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of several horizontal bands of light. The top band shows a bright orange and yellow light source with rays emanating outwards. Below it are several bands of horizontal light streaks in shades of orange and red, creating a sense of motion and energy.

The Code of Ethics Review

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16 April 2006

Code of Ethics review

- **August 2005**

RPSGB Council agreed to undertake a fundamental review of the pharmacist's and pharmacy technician's codes of ethics

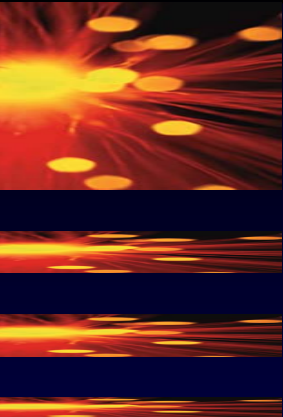
- **Aim**

To develop a code of ethics that

- reflects and supports modern pharmacy practice
- continues to ensure patient safety and public confidence in the pharmacy professions



Why Review the Codes?

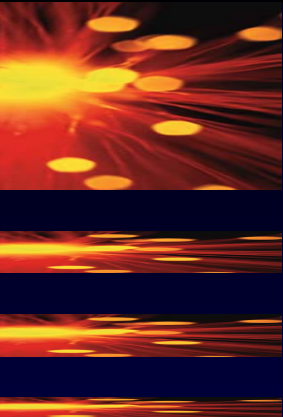
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- Changing roles and responsibilities
 - Changes to working practices
 - Changing regulatory requirements



The Review Process

- Working group formed to oversee review
 - Representatives from different sectors of pharmacy
 - Patient representatives
- Consultations with the profession & the public
 - Initial consultation (Oct- Nov 05)
 - Patient workshops (Nov 05 and July 06)
 - Consultation on the structure of the revised code (June- Sept 06)
 - Consultation on detailed wording of the revised code (Nov 06- Jan 07)

Consultations- Key messages

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- Code needs to be relevant to all areas of pharmacy
 - Current codes too prescriptive
 - Detailed standards should be in separate guidance
 - Need for clear distinction between legal, professional and good practice requirements



The Revised Code

- Based on a set of over-arching principles applicable to all sectors of pharmacy
- Aims to support a culture of accountability and professional judgement
- One code for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- Does not contain detailed technical requirements



Structure

7 principles of ethical practice

- Each principle supported by statements that explain the types of actions and behaviours expected when applying the principles in practice
- Statements under each principle not intended to be an exhaustive list



The Seven Principles

1. Make the care of patients your first concern
2. Exercise your professional judgement in the interests of patients and the public
3. Show respect for others
4. Encourage patients to participate in decisions about their care
5. Develop your professional knowledge and competence
6. Be honest and trustworthy
7. Take responsibility for your working practices

Supporting Professional Standards and Guidance

- Detailed standards & guidance to be produced separately from the code
- Status of supporting documents (mandatory/good practice) to be clearly indicated
- Consulting on supporting documents on
 - Patient Consent
 - Patient Confidentiality
 - Sale and Supply of Medicines
 - Pharmacist Prescribing
 - Positions of Authority
 - Internet Pharmacy
 - Advertising



Next steps

- **May 07-** Present revised Code to AGM
- **June 07-** Council to finalise and agree supporting standards & guidance documents
- **July 07-** Revised Code and standards documents to be sent to all registrants
- **1 August 07-** Revised Code comes into force