

English Pharmacy Board 4 March 2009

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Update on Practitioners with a Special Interest (PwSI)

Purpose

To inform the group of progress made in the development and roll-out of PwSIs.
To obtain direction from the board on how this work needs to progress for 2009

Strategic Objective Domain

- Influencing and enabling the development of the pharmacist to play a more inclusive part in healthcare, public health and social care

Update

The second phase of work around PwSIs is now completed; the speciality-specific frameworks are now signed off, with the exception of skin disease, and were launched at an event in September 2008 in final draft form. The frameworks are currently accessible via the Primary Care Contracting (PCC) website, <http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/pwsi>, though wider availability is pending.

The first Pharmacists with a Special Interest (PwSI) qualified in 2008, with more expected during this year. Some Higher Education Institutions are actively considering how they might support these emerging practitioners.

It should be noted that all existing PwSIs must be reaccredited by the end of March 2009 and this deadline has been a driver for the establishment of local accreditation panels where these are not already in place.

The next stage is for the Board to identify how to support and progress this work for 2009. Several ideas have been put forward to date:

1. Developing a network of PwSI as they are accredited; enabling networking and support for pharmacists.
2. Developing a central 'voluntary' list of accredited PwSIs.
3. Potentially develop 'clinical champions' in specific therapeutic areas, to support and provide expertise.
4. Producing guidance and sign-posting around PwSIs, to help raise general awareness.

Recommendations

- The English Pharmacy Board is asked to note the progress on PwSIs to date.
- The English Pharmacy Board is asked to give direction on how to take this work forward in 2009.

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