



Plans for new professional body pick up pace

Your 5 minute guide to what this means for pharmacy

The Government's decision to transfer the regulatory functions of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to a new regulator for pharmacy – the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) – has presented a unique opportunity to build a dynamic new professional body for pharmacy. This briefing provides all the essential *need to know* facts about the current state of play and plans for the future.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Since early 2007 the Society has been working to ensure that the views of members and stakeholders are captured in order to prepare the way for the new professional body. This has been done in various ways including member research, stakeholder meetings, *Pharmacy 2020* and most recently the work of the independent Clarke Inquiry. Four themes have emerged which provide a vision for what the new professional body can deliver for pharmacy:

- Provide strategic leadership and practical support for pharmacists in their daily activities.
- Speak for the practice and science of pharmacy.
- Provide a strong, unified voice and vision for pharmacy.
- Be the principal voice of the profession to the GPhC.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE SOCIETY?

The Society will play an integral part in the creation of the new professional body which is likely to retain some of its existing functions. However, it is recognised that the shape and functions of the new organisation must be determined in partnership with other bodies. The Society was founded by pharmacists and the new professional body will build on those foundations.



WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED SO FAR?

The new professional body will start work in January 2010 - so time is of the essence. It has already been decided that the new body should:

- Provide a range of services of benefit to members.
- Provide a bridge between the scientific pharmacy community and other members to ensure that daily practice and advice to patients is informed by up-to-date scientific opinion.
- Be a central force for promoting education thinking in pharmacy.
- Support all aspects of continuing professional development for its members.
- Develop standards for revalidation in support of the GPhC but have no role in policing the system.

The Clarke Inquiry has also recommended that the Society sets up a Transitional Committee, with an independent Chair, to oversee the process of establishing the new professional body.



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Member research /
Clarke Inquiry
Report /
Stakeholder
discussions.

Society responds
to the Clarke
Inquiry Report.

Transitional
Committee
established and
consultation with
Society members.

Production of
'prospectus' for
new professional
body.

Membership
products and
services defined
and constitution
agreed.

Establishment
of Shadow
Council.

New
professional
body and new
regulator.

WHAT SERVICES WILL THE NEW PROFESSIONAL BODY PROVIDE TO MEMBERS?

Subject to consultation with members, services will include:

- Strategic leadership to enable pharmacy to realise its full potential.
- Practice support to help members in their day-to-day roles.
- Support for continuing professional development.
- Representation to government.
- An authoritative voice in the media.
- Leadership in publishing.
- Promotion of careers.
- Counselling services.
- Protection and promotion of the heritage of pharmacy.

WHAT WILL IT NOT DO?

The new professional body will not perform trade union functions.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Society will continue to consult with its members and other stakeholders during 2008. Members will also have the opportunity to feedback on the prospectus for the new professional body.

FIND OUT MORE

Stay in touch with the latest developments by visiting the Society's website at: www.rpsgb.org.

The Clarke Inquiry report has been published and is available at: www.theclarkeinquiry.com.



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain**

**Royal Pharmaceutical
Society of Great Britain**
1 Lambeth High Street
London SE1 7JN
Tel 020 7735 9141
Fax 020 7735 7629
e-mail: enquiries@rpsgb.org

Scottish Office
36 York Place
Edinburgh EH1 3HU
Tel: 0131 556 4386
Fax: 0131 558 8850
e-mail: scotinfo@rpsgb.org

Welsh Office
Unit 2, Ashtree Court, Woodsy Close
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff CF23 8RW
Tel: 029 2073 0310
Fax: 029 2073 0311
e-mail: wales@rpsgb.org