



**Royal
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Statement

For immediate release

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SOCIETY WELCOMES CONSULTATION ON NEW LEGISLATION TO AMEND PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY TECHNICIANS ORDER 2007

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has welcomed the publication of the Department of Health's (DH) public consultation paper on the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) (no.2) Order 2008 and is encouraging the profession to contribute its views.

The consultation document sets out proposals to amend the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 (P&PTO), so as to bring pharmacy technicians in Scotland into the regulatory arrangements (amongst other changes). Its publication marks the start of a 13-week period of public consultation, during which any interested individual, or organisation, may submit comments to the DH.

The P&PTO covers the statutory regulation of pharmacy technicians by the Society, for England and Wales only. The draft amending order will extend the arrangements to pharmacy technicians in Scotland. However, its impact will be more general, as the pharmacy technician provisions in the P&PTO have not yet been implemented, so that pharmacy technician regulation can be brought in across Great Britain at the same time.

President of the Society, Hemant Patel said: "This amendment to the P&PTO is good news because it will promote consistency throughout Great Britain".

Dr Rose Marie Parr, Chair of the Society's Scottish Pharmacy Board commented: "Amends to the P&PTO have been long overdue and we welcome the proposals put forward by the DH".

In a message to the profession Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive and Registrar, said: "I am very happy to see that this draft order has been published for consultation. When the P&PTO was published, we were disappointed to see that it did not cover regulation of pharmacy technicians in Scotland. We have been urging the Government to rectify this omission ever since and so I am delighted to see that things are moving in this area. I should be clear, however, that this Order does not confine itself to the regulation of pharmacy technicians – it proposes other changes, both for pharmacy and other professions, and some of these proposals have given the Society cause for concern. The Council will be expanding on these in its response to the Government's consultation. However, in the interests of public protection we are eager to implement statutory regulation of pharmacy technicians in Great Britain. With this in mind, we welcome the publication of this consultation draft, and we are keen for the Order to be brought into force as soon as possible."

The Society is encouraging all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to visit the DH website and to comment direct to the department on the proposals. They can also, if they wish, copy their comments to the devolved administrations. The consultation document is available under the 'Consultations' section of the DH website at www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/fs/en. The deadline for feedback to the DH is 22 March 2008.

The Society's website www.rpsgb.org also contains an overview of the draft Order, together with a briefing on potential concerns from the Society's point of view.

Ends

**For further information please contact the public relations unit of the Royal
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on 020 7572 2335**

Notes to editors

1. The Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 (P&PTO) is a major piece of pharmacy legislation which has overhauled and modernised pharmacy regulation in Great Britain. It sets out the bulk of the RPSGB's regulatory duties – standard setting, education requirements, registration and fitness to practise.
2. The Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) (no.2) Order 2008 is, like the P&PTO it amends, a section 60 Order. Section 60 of the Health Act 1999 permits the amendment of legislation concerning the regulation of health professions by means of an Order in Council – a type of statutory instrument generally reserved for the most important pieces of secondary legislation. A section 60 order therefore allows the Government to overhaul such legislation without going through the full parliamentary procedures that are required for a new Act of Parliament.