



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN

Tel: 020 7572 2335

Fax: 020 7572 2503

News release

For immediate release

3 November 2008

SOCIETY LAUNCHES CPD CONSULTATION

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has today launched an eight week consultation on proposals relating to Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

The consultation focuses on two areas:

1. Proposed professional standards and guidance for CPD, and
2. A proposal for inclusion of 'failure to comply with CPD requirements' as one of the categories of cases that is suitable for non-referral to the Investigating Committee.

The proposals have been put forward as a result of the indicated intension by the Department of Health to delay the preparation of statutory CPD rules under the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007, and instead include them in the rule making process for the General Pharmaceutical Council when it is established in 2010.

Wendy Harris, the Society's Deputy Registrar and Director of Regulation, said:

"As health professionals, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must be proactive in meeting their obligation to keep their knowledge, skills and competencies up-to-date and fit for purpose in the interest of their patients.

"Professional standards and guidance for CPD are a crucial next step in defining those obligations and in facilitating a process by which the individual pharmacist and registered pharmacy technician will develop their practice and demonstrate to the regulator that they meet professional requirements.

“The proposed non-referral route will allow the Society to advise registrants, who are not in compliance with the CPD requirements, in a proportionate and supportive manner.”

The consultation document can be accessed via the Society's website, www.rpsgb.org. A hard copy format is available by contacting Priya Sejpal on 020 7572 2481.

The deadline for response is Monday 29 December 2008.

Ends

**For media enquiries please contact the
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's Public Relations Unit
020 7572 2476**

Notes to editors

The consultation relates to the following two proposals:

1. Proposed Professional Standards and Guidance

- Pharmacy was among the earliest adaptors of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in the UK. The Society introduced CPD in 1999 following the Pharmacy in a New Age consultation in which members expressed the view that CPD should be mandatory.
- The Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Order 2007 gives the Society responsibility to enforce mandatory recording of CPD for which a set of statutory CPD rules are required. The Department of Health has indicated that it intends to delay the preparation of these rules and include them in the rule making process for the General Pharmaceutical Council.
- In April 2008, the Council of the Society agreed that the requirement for practising pharmacists and registered pharmacy technicians to maintain a CPD record will be

based on the *Code of Ethics for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians* until the CPD rules are made.

- The *Code of Ethics* is based on seven over-arching principles that inform the conduct, performance and practice of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Principle 5 of the *Code of Ethics* states that registrants must undertake and maintain up-to-date evidence of CPD relevant to their field of practice.
- In order to specify the professional requirements under the principles of the *Code of Ethics* and provide guidance to registrants, the Society produces separate professional standards and guidance documents that clearly detail the mandatory professional standards (indicated by the word 'must') and guidance on good practice (indicated by the word 'should'), which registrants should follow in all normal circumstances. The consultation document outlines the mandatory professional standards and guidance on good practice relating to CPD.

2. Proposed non-referral to the Investigating Committee for non-compliance

- The Council of the Society agreed at its meeting in June 2008 on the types of cases that can be dealt with by way of non-referral to the Investigating Committee, the threshold criteria to be applied for such cases and the framework for handling the cases.
- Cases against registrants which are not referred should be dealt with by way of a letter of advice sent from the Chief Inspector to the registrant where the individual admits the allegations made and accepts the advice provided. Records would be maintained for five years as part of the registrant's fitness to practise history.
- The Society is proposing to include 'failure to comply with CPD requirements' as one of the categories of cases that is suitable for non-referral to the Investigating Committee.