



**Royal
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News release

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RESTRICTED TITLE OF “PHARMACIST” PROTECTS PATIENTS AND VALUES PHARMACISTS’ CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has now made clear its views on the future use of the restricted title of ‘pharmacist.’

In a Council meeting on Wednesday March 3, the Society discussed this issue as part of its response to the Department of Health consultation on the draft Pharmacy Order 2009, and agreed that:-

- The title “Pharmacist” should continue to be restricted to those suitably qualified and registered with the GPhC.
- The broader definition of “practising” proposed in the draft Order will encompass more members of the profession than at present, but not all will wish to be on the practising register.
- The GPhC should therefore consider maintaining a non-practising register.
- The GPhC should also allow those members of the profession who do not wish to be on either the practising or non-practising register to call themselves “retired” or “former” pharmacists.
- The future introduction of revalidation may provide an opportunity for further review of this issue.

Under these proposals, all those suitably qualified and registered with the GPhC would, as is presently the case, be able to use the title "Pharmacist" or "Non-Practising Pharmacist" as appropriate. Those who decide not to register with the regulator would not be allowed to refer to themselves as pharmacists, again reflecting the current position. However, such persons, having at some stage been on either the practising or the non-practising register, would be able to call themselves "former" or "retired" pharmacists.

Steve Churton, Society President, said; "The position agreed by Council focuses on the issue of patient safety, and the confidence that patients should have in the profession. It also recognises, acknowledges and values the huge contribution to patients' health and wellbeing made by our members - particularly our more long-serving members.

"It is right that we listen to those we represent, and take account of those whose health we care for, and I believe that Council has given very careful and appropriate consideration to the complex issues in this case".

"Strong leadership is about making the right decisions. Sometimes, as in this case, the arguments are complicated, and the decisions tough, but solutions can usually be found to most problems. In my view, what Council is recommending should be welcomed by members, and we shall reinforce the position of Council in our ongoing discussions with the Department of Health."

"Whether practising, non-practising or retired from the profession, colleagues should feel they have a "home" in these proposals, which recognise them for their present or past service to the profession. All will also be welcomed into the new professional leadership body which is currently being established.

Ends

**For media enquiries please contact the
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