



Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA).

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is the regulatory and professional body for pharmacists. The pharmacy profession consists of approximately 44,000 members of which some 23,000 work in community pharmacy with a further 6,000 employed in hospital pharmacy. The remainder work in a variety of fields ranging from the pharmaceutical industry to health authorities, research and teaching.

The Society has responsibilities in relation to the education, registration, training, continuing professional development, revalidation and discipline of pharmacists. As well as fulfilling its statutory roles in public health, the Society operates widely to promote and develop the practice of pharmacy.

National Treatment Agency

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) is the Special Health Authority established in 2001 to oversee the expansion and improvement of drug treatment services in England. It is managed by a board consisting of senior executives, non-executive members and ex-officio members from interested government departments. The NTA consists of two operational directorates.

The first is a Quality Directorate whose task is to produce guidance for commissioners and providers of drug treatment services, based on the best available evidence of good practice. It is also responsible for the development of a workforce strategy and accreditation system for the sector.

The second is a Performance Directorate whose task is to work with the Drug Action Teams to ensure that their commissioning of services is strategic, effective and takes into account the available evidence and guidance on good practice. The performance directorate has a Regional Manager based in each of the nine Government Regional Offices.

Organisational Objectives

The RPSGB and the NTA both share a common aim of ensuring that patients or clients involved with Substance Misuse receive the best possible pharmaceutical service.

The RPSGB and the NTA can achieve this through:

- Ensuring that the highest standards are maintained in the provision of pharmaceutical services.
- Development of new services for delivery by pharmacists.

General Arrangement for Working Together

To help achieve the common organisational objectives, a number of areas have been identified that would benefit from the involvement of both parties.

- **Consultations:** Representatives from the RPSGB and NTA will meet regularly to keep each other informed of their respective work plans. The NTA and RPSGB will exchange draft documents relating to each other's areas of work so that comment and feedback can be given. The NTA will request RPSGB representation in key steering groups relating to relevant aspects of NTA work. The RPSGB will keep the NTA informed of areas of work that impact on NTA planning.
 - **Commissioning:** The NTA and RPSGB will jointly produce guidance on the Commissioning of Drug Treatment Services by pharmacies or pharmacists.
 - **Standards:** The NTA and RPSGB will work together to provide guidance and advice to help pharmacists develop services that meet all professional requirements and expected standards.
 - **Secondments:** The RPSGB will assist the NTA with any secondments of pharmacists it wishes to make.
 - **Project Work:** The NTA and RPSGB will work jointly to develop practice research focussed on understanding and improving drug treatment services offered by pharmacists.
 - **Conferences:** The NTA and RPSGB will where appropriate make contributions to each other's Conference programmes.
 - **Regional Links:** The RPSGB will work with the NTA to develop a pharmacy network of lead professionals in the area of Substance Misuse.
 - **Mapping Service Provision:** The NTA will involve the RPSGB in mapping the variance in service provision from pharmacies and addressing these differences.
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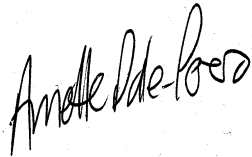
The following mutual areas of interest will be developed into a joint work programme. The work programme will form part of an overarching strategy for the co-operation between the two organisations.

Resolving Conflict

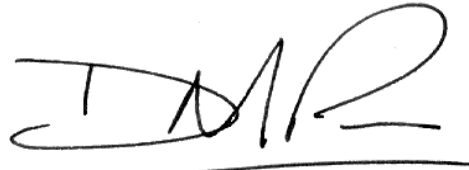
Should a disagreement arise at national level between the two organisations this will be discussed and if necessary, arbitrated by the Senior Management of the NTA and the RPSGB.

Review of the Memorandum of Understanding

This agreement will be reviewed by both parties annually.



Signed on Behalf of the NTA
Annette Dale-Perera
Director of Quality



Signed on Behalf of the RPSGB
David Pruce
Director of Practice & Quality
Improvement