

Department Of Health Launches Consultation On New Pharmacy Regulator

On 9 December 2008, the Department of Health (DoH) launched a joint consultation on proposals contained within the draft Pharmacy Order 2009 to establish a new regulator for pharmacy – the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is encouraging all its members to participate in the consultation, which provides an opportunity to comment on the proposed functions of the GPhC.

In 2010, the RPSGB will effectively split into two bodies – a new Professional body, which will be responsible for professional services, leadership and advocacy and the GPhC. The GPhC will be responsible for the statutory regulation of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and for the registration of pharmacy premises in Great Britain.

In a move seen by many pharmacists as an unnecessary waste of time and money, it will remain to be seen whether or not the proposed roles for the two new bodies will offer improved services to its members over those currently provided for many years by RPSGB. The consultation offers the opportunity to members and wider stakeholders to play a part in shaping the new pharmacy regulator, ensuring that it is fit for the future regulation of pharmacy, and that it offers tangible benefits to its members over the current model.

The consultation document can be accessed from the DoH website, www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_091681 and the deadline for response is 9 March 2009.

For further information and to view a Vodcast titled New Pharmacy Regulator, New Professional Body for Pharmacy, visit the Society's website at: www.rpsgb.org/newpharmacyregulator/pharmacyorder.

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