Consultation on draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists

Newsletter copy

Please help us to spread the word about our consultation on our draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists through your newsletters or other communications with your colleagues and/or members. For your convenience, please find below pre-written articles incorporating the short URL which will link to the consultation landing page.

For professional audiences

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) seeks views on draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is seeking views on new draft Standards for Chief Pharmacist. This consultation is open until 16 April 2023.

Chief Pharmacists are senior healthcare professionals with a vital leadership role in making sure pharmacy services are delivered safely and effectively. They usually work in hospitals or settings such as care homes, some Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), some ambulance trusts, prisons, and other places where people are lawfully detained. Chief Pharmacists sometimes have other titles such as Director of Pharmacy.

New legislation removes the threat of criminal penalties for inadvertent (accidental or unintentional) preparation and dispensing errors by pharmacy staff working in hospitals and similar settings. These defences already apply to pharmacy staff working in registered pharmacies. Protection from prosecution in the event of an inadvertent dispensing or assembly error helps to promote an open and learning culture which is vital for patient safety.

To benefit from the defences the hospital (or relevant setting) must have a Chief Pharmacist (or equivalent) in post, who must be a registered pharmacist with the appropriate skills, training, and experience; and who must meet the Standards for Chief Pharmacists.

The standards are designed to be ‘outcome’ focused in acknowledgement of the differing circumstances of pharmacy settings. Examples of how Chief Pharmacists can demonstrate that they are meeting the standards are included.

Developing these new standards is part of the GPhC’s strengthening pharmacy governance work, which aims to provide clarity around how pharmacies are organised and managed to make sure patients and the public continue to receive safe and effective pharmacy care. In the future, the GPhC will be
developing and consulting on rules and Standards for Responsible Pharmacists, and Standards for Superintendent Pharmacists.

Make sure you share your views - complete the short consultation survey now

You can find out more on the GPhC website, by following @TheGPhC on Twitter or at Facebook.com/TheGPhC

For patient and public audiences

Share your views

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in Great Britain. Its role is to protect patients and the public and give them assurance that they will receive safe and effective care when using pharmacy services. One of the ways they do this is by setting Standards for pharmacy professionals, which all pharmacy professional working in any setting must meet.

Some pharmacists work in hospitals and other similar settings as a Chief Pharmacist or Director of Pharmacy. They have an important role in making sure pharmacy services are delivered safely and effectively. The GPhC has developed new draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists.

These new draft standards were developed following a change in rules that removes the threat of criminal sanctions for accidental or unintentional errors made by pharmacy staff working in hospitals when they are preparing and dispensing medicines. Protection from prosecution helps to promote an open and learning culture which is vital for patient safety. Those rules already apply in community pharmacies.

To benefit from the new rules, a hospital (or relevant setting) must have a Chief Pharmacist (or equivalent). That person must be a registered pharmacist with the appropriate skills, training, and experience. They will need to meet the new Standards for Chief Pharmacists as well as the existing Standards for pharmacy professionals.

The GPhC want to hear from patients, carers, and members of the public to find out what you think about the draft standards and if there are any negative or positive impacts of their plans on any individuals or groups sharing protected characteristics or other characteristics.

You can take part by completing the consultation survey now (closes 16 April 2024).

You can find out more on the GPhC website, by following @TheGPhC on Twitter or at Facebook.com/TheGPhC