Consultation on draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists

23 January to 16 April 2024
The GPhC is seeking views on draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists. 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 and settings, such as care homes, prisons, or other places where people are lawfully detained.

Chief Pharmacists sometimes have other titles such as Director of Pharmacy.
Developing the draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists

- New legislative orders remove the threat of criminal sanctions for inadvertent (accidental or unintentional) preparation and dispensing errors for pharmacy staff working in hospitals and similar settings.
- Theses defences already apply to pharmacy staff working in registered pharmacies.
- Protection from prosecution in the event of an inadvertent dispensing or assembly errors helps to promote an open and learning culture.
- This will increase the opportunities for pharmacy teams to learn from preparation and dispensing errors and reduce the possibility of them happening again, which is vital for patient safety.
Developing the draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists

• 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 ‘outcome’ focused in acknowledgment of the differing circumstances of pharmacy settings.
• We have included examples of how Chief Pharmacists can demonstrate that they are meeting the standards.
The four overarching standards are...

- Provide strategic and professional leadership
- Develop a workforce with the right skills, knowledge, and experience
- Delegate responsibly and make sure there are clear lines of accountability
- Maintain and strengthen governance to ensure safe and effective delivery of pharmacy services
The GPhC is seeking views on...

- whether the standards will strengthen and maintain pharmacy governance in the interests of public safety
- whether the standards provide a governance framework to support staff in reporting and learning from inadvertent preparation and dispensing errors
- whether there are any settings in which the standards could not be applied and met
- the impact of the draft standards on people including Chief Pharmacists, pharmacy professionals, patients and members of the public and individuals or groups sharing any of the protected characteristics
Strengthening pharmacy governance

• Developing Standards for Chief Pharmacists is part of wider work to strengthen pharmacy governance, which aims to provide clarity around how pharmacies are organised and managed to help 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.
Take part in the consultation on draft Standards for Chief Pharmacists

www.pharmacyregulation.org/get-involved-consultations/consultation-draft-standards-chief-pharmacists

Closes 16 April 2024