

The GPhC and Me



This 'GPhC and Me' guide will provide an overview of all the information that you need to know about the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and how changes to pharmacy regulation will affect you as a pharmacy professional.

- From 27 September 2010, the GPhC will regulate pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacy premises
- It is the GPhC's job to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and of those who use pharmaceutical services
- The GPhC was established after the government decided the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) could no longer be both a regulator and a leadership body
- The establishment of the GPhC brings the pharmacy profession into line with all other healthcare professions which are regulated by independent regulators.

What do I need to do now?

Read the information included in this pack to ensure you know how changes to pharmacy regulation will affect you.

For more information, visit the GPhC website at www.pharmacyregulation.org or call our helpline on **0845 504 6277**.

The GPhC and Me – What's changing?

The establishment of the GPhC will lead to several changes which will directly impact on pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners/employers:



- Current registrations will expire on 31 December 2010. You will need to complete your renewal process, including your declaration, and pay the renewal fee by 30 November 2010 to ensure that your registration will be renewed and to enable you to practise in 2011
- Continuing professional development (CPD) is a legal requirement for all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- The GPhC operates a risk-based system of regulation. This means that standards are set according to the level of risk that activities pose to the health and wellbeing of the public, and to the level of risk posed by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners/employers. This approach will improve standards and the quality of care and services for all, rather than simply addressing poor practice, and will mean that regulation is not used as a means of discipline
- The GPhC will not have a non-practising register. Legislation requires the GPhC to register only those who are appropriately qualified and fit to practise, who meet continuing professional development requirements and who intend to practise in Great Britain, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man
- The GPhC publishes standards for education and training, conduct, ethics and performance and CPD. These standards play an important role in helping to ensure that registrants practise safely and effectively and also to inform decisions about registrants' fitness to practise
- For the first time, interim standards for pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists have been introduced in order to protect patients and the public and to promote safe and effective practice of pharmacy at registered pharmacies
- From 27 September, all GPhC registrants will be issued with a new, unique registration number that will differ from your current registration number
- Certificates of registration with the RPSGB will cease to be valid from 27 September 2010.

What do I need to do now?

Familiarise yourself with the changes to pharmacy regulation, including the new standards. Make sure you are keeping your registration up to date by completing the renewal process on time and undertaking CPD.

For more information about the changes to pharmacy regulation, visit the GPhC website at www.pharmacyregulation.org or call our helpline on **0845 504 6277**.

The GPhC and Me – Vision and Strategy



Purpose

The purpose of the GPhC is to protect and promote the health and safety of patients and the public by assuring the maintenance and development of safe and effective pharmacy practice in England, Scotland and Wales.

Vision and values

The GPhC aims to secure the confidence of patients, the public and pharmacy professionals by being a healthcare regulator that demonstrates effectiveness and efficiency and supports innovation in delivering its function.

The GPhC will ensure their values are at the heart of everything they do and as a regulator will endeavour to:

- Be focused on improvement
- Be responsive to change
- Develop policies that are inclusive
- Be independent and fair
- Demonstrate respect for others
- Ensure that regulation is proportionate.

Strategy

During the first two years of operation, the GPhC will:

- Deliver effective regulation by ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of the public
- Establish itself as the new regulator for pharmacy
- Develop an innovative and effective programme by continuously seeking to improve the way in which the GPhC works.

What do I need to do now?

Familiarise yourself with the GPhC vision and strategy for pharmacy regulation.

For more information about the GPhC's vision and strategy, visit the GPhC website at www.pharmacyregulation.org or call our helpline on **0845 504 6277**.

Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians

These are the standards and criteria against which the GPhC approves pharmacy technician qualifications and training programmes. If you are an awarding body or training provider you will need to meet the standards and criteria set by the GPhC in order to have your pharmacy technician's competency or knowledge-based qualification approved by the GPhC.

Future guidance

- Interim standards have been set for pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists of pharmacy businesses in order to allow time for further work on important issues that may affect them while continuing to protect patients and the public
- Consultation on standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists will take place in Autumn this year to allow educational institutes time to plan for the implementation of any necessary changes in a managed fashion.

What do I need to do now?

- Familiarise yourself with the new GPhC standards
- Take note of any changes to the standards that affect you and decide how you need to act
- If you are an employer, make sure you make the pharmacists and pharmacy technicians you work with aware of any action they must take as a result of the changes to standards.

For more information about standards, visit the GPhC website at www.pharmacyregulation.org or call our helpline on **0845 504 6277**.

The GPhC and Me – Standards



New rules and standards have come into force. It is important that you meet the standards and that you are able to practise safely and effectively.

Standards of conduct, ethics and performance

As a registrant you are professionally accountable for your practice. This means that you are responsible for what you do or do not do, no matter what advice or direction your manager or another professional gives you.

The seven principles

As a pharmacy professional you must:

1. Make patients your first concern
2. Use your professional judgement in the interest of patients and the public
3. Show respect for others
4. Encourage patients and the public to participate in decisions about their care
5. Develop your professional knowledge and competence
6. Be honest and trustworthy
7. Take responsibility for your working practices.

Your conduct will be judged against the standards and failure to comply could put your registration at risk.

Standards for continuing professional development (CPD)

CPD requirements apply equally to all pharmacy professionals. Patients, the public and government expect that every pharmacy professional maintains their professional capability throughout their career. You must:

- Keep a record of your CPD in a format published or approved by the GPhC (www.uptodate.org.uk), carrying the CPD approved logo
- Make a minimum of nine CPD entries per year
- Keep a record of your CPD which complies with the good practice criteria for CPD recording published in Plan and Record
- Record how your CPD has contributed to the quality or development of your practice using the GPhC CPD framework
- Submit your CPD record to the GPhC on request.

Hard copies of these standards are enclosed with this guide.

Standards for pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists of pharmacy businesses

These are interim standards. If you own or are the superintendent pharmacist for a retail pharmacy business you must make sure that all of the standards set by the GPhC are met, whether you do this directly or delegate to someone else.

The GPhC and Me

– Registration

The GPhC will create a single register for all pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises. This will replace the registers currently held by the RPSGB.

- Pharmacist and pharmacy technician will become protected titles. Only those professionals on the GPhC register will be able to use these titles regardless of whether they are in a clinical or patient-facing role.
- There is no longer a non-practising register.
- The statutory register for pharmacy technicians opened on 1 July 2009. Pharmacy technicians with work experience and an approved qualification will be able to apply to join the register until 30 June 2011. After this date, any technicians wanting to join the register will need specific competency and knowledge based qualifications.
- Current registrations will expire on 31 December 2010. You will need to complete your renewal process, including your declaration, and pay the renewal fee by 30 November 2010 to ensure that your registration will be renewed and to enable you to practise in 2011.

- The GPhC will operate a rolling register for registrants. From 2011, renewal of registration will be due ten months after the date of initial entry. Failure to complete the renewal process at the correct time could result in an entry expiring at the end of the twelve month registration period, meaning you are no longer entitled to practise.
- All GPhC registrants will be issued with a new, unique registration number that will differ from your current registration number.
- Existing registrants will receive renewal notices by 30 September 2010. Because there are no provisions for statutory reminders about unpaid fees, **registrants will be removed from the register after 31 December 2010 – when your entry will have ceased to be valid – if you have not paid the renewal fee by that time.**
- From 27 September 2010, certificates of registration with the RPSGB will cease to be valid.

What do I need to do now?

- All registrants – pharmacy owners, practising pharmacists and practising pharmacy technicians currently on the RPSGB registers – complete the process, including your declaration, and pay the appropriate fee to the GPhC by 30 November 2010.
- Look out for your new GPhC registration number, on or around 27 September. Begin using it instead of your old RPSGB number once you have received it.
- Pharmacy technicians not yet on the Register – apply for registration before 30 June 2011.

For more information about registration, visit the GPhC website at www.pharmacyregulation.org or call our helpline on **0845 504 6277**.