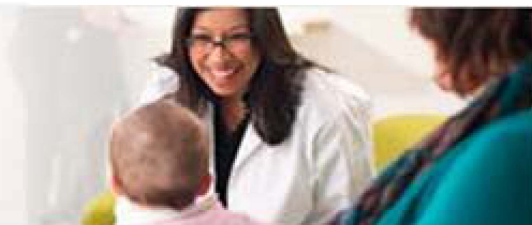




Cumann Cógaiseoirí na hÉireann  
THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND



PSI Newsletter

Issue 8, 2015

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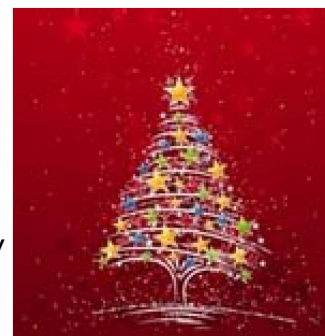
## Overview

Welcome to this end of year issue of the PSI newsletter, which contains a number of useful articles including learnings from a fitness to practise inquiry, practice updates and notice of the development of a patient charter.

Thank you for your feedback to our recent newsletter and website survey. The input was very positive with 77% of respondents rating the newsletter overall as either very good or good, and in general finding the main content topics useful, particularly updates on practice guidance and medicines, and the learnings from complaints and disciplinary inquiries. In relation to the website, 65% of respondents rated it overall as very good or good.

We have taken on board the points for improvement, including clarity of language, mobile device compatibility and presentation of content. We hope that the next PSI newsletter in early 2016 will be a 'new look' offering, reflecting much of the feedback we have received. We will also continue to work on the website so that we might improve searching for content and documents and general navigation.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas season, and thank you for the valued contributions received throughout this past year at meetings, focus groups, and through public consultations.



## Acting Registrar Appointed

In the past week Marita Kinsella has stepped down as PSI Registrar and CEO to take up a new position in the Department of Health's Acute Hospitals Policy division. The President and Council of the PSI paid tribute to the outgoing Registrar's leadership of the organisation at their most recent Council meeting on 3 December. [View related information](#)

Damhnait Gaughan, Head of Registration and Qualification Recognition, has been appointed Acting Registrar by the PSI Council on an interim basis, and a process will be put in place for a permanent replacement in due course. Damhnait is a registered pharmacist and has worked with the PSI for 13 years in a number of roles.

## Health Matters Programme for Pharmacists

The Practitioner Health Matters Programme is an independent organisation that provides support to health practitioners in Ireland, including pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants, who may have a concern about a mental health or substance abuse problem. The PSI is very pleased to raise awareness of the programme, so that valuable professional care and treatment is available confidentially to those who need it.

The website [www.practitionerhealth.ie](http://www.practitionerhealth.ie) has information on the services and supports available through the programme and the [PSI website](#) has been

updated to provide information to PSI registrants. The service can be contacted directly, in confidence, by phoning 01 297 0356 or by email to [confidential@practitionerhealth.ie](mailto:confidential@practitionerhealth.ie).

To acknowledge this important area of work, the PSI President Dr Ann Frankish met with Directors of the Practitioner Health Matters Programme on 30 November to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between both of our organisations.

## Patient Charter in Development

We are currently inviting feedback on a Patient Charter that has been developed with the aim of informing patients about what to expect in a pharmacy, and to highlight the role of pharmacists in healthcare and as medicines experts.

If you would like to contribute to the development of the Patient Charter please provide your comments during our public consultation this month. You will find all relevant details on the [PSI website](#).



## Learning from Fitness to Practise Inquiries

### A complaint involving the supply of Paralink® suppositories for a child

One of the ways in which the PSI carries out its function to regulate the profession and practice of pharmacy is by handling complaints raised about pharmacists and pharmacy owners.

The intention of sharing learnings from fitness to practise inquiries that are conducted by the PSI is to help prevent similar incidents from happening again, and to help improve practice by highlighting potential errors and risks. All registrants should consider how they can use these learnings to review and improve their own practice and policies.

In this issue we include a [complaint involving the supply of Paralink® suppositories for a child](#).

## Implementation of Legislation to Widen Access to Certain Prescription-Only Medicines

On 15 October, the Minister for Health announced an amendment to legislation ([SI No.449 of 2015](#)) which has made a number of changes to the availability of certain prescription-only medicines as follows:

### 1. Emergency medicines

The amendment enables increased access to specified prescription-only medicines in an emergency situation. The specified medicines are **adrenaline, naloxone, glyceryl trinitrate, salbutamol and glucagon**. The legislation permits:

- the supply and administration of these prescription-only medicines, without a prescription, by trained non-medical persons, to a person in an emergency,
- the supply and administration of these prescription-only medicines, without a prescription, by pharmacists who have completed PSI-approved training, to a person in an emergency, even when the particular medicine has not been previously prescribed for the person requiring it.

### 2. Vaccines

The amendment also permits pharmacists to supply and administer two additional vaccines, namely Pneumococcal and Herpes Zoster (shingles) vaccines, following the completion of PSI-approved training. The PSI will be issuing guidance for pharmacists in relation to these developments in practice and the requirements of the legislation.

### Training for Pharmacists

The PSI will set out the training requirements for pharmacists to ensure that these medicines are supplied and administered safely to patients. This training will seek to build on existing skills and expertise of pharmacists.

As a number of the medicines which pharmacists can administer under this legislation require common skills, the PSI and Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) are working to streamline the training for pharmacists.

Courses will be facilitated by the IIOP on a phased roll-out from early in 2016, and information will be communicated to pharmacists in due course by both the PSI and IIOP.

## Future Pharmacy Project Update

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A lot has been happening in relation to the Future Pharmacy Practice project since our last update.

### National Consultations

As part of the research element of the project, the project team has consulted widely with many people and organisations in the past weeks. These include the Department of Health, HSE, the three Schools of Pharmacy, Pharmacists in Industry, Education and Regulatory (PIER) group, Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU), Hospital Pharmacists Association of Ireland (HPAI), Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP), Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, and the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP). The responses have been very positive. Pharmacy and pharmacists are recognised for their medicines expertise. Insight has been gained into government policy and priorities and how pharmacy and pharmacists could potentially contribute in the future.

### Focus group update

Another key part of the project is consultation with pharmacists, patients and other key stakeholders. We have been holding a number of focus groups around the country to hear your ideas on what both pharmacy practice should look like in Ireland in the future and how future pharmacy practice can enhance the health and wellbeing of our population in the next decade and beyond. Hospital and community pharmacist focus groups are happening around the country so that we get a broad spread of views from both an urban and rural perspective. Patient groups are also giving valuable insight into both current patient need and that of the future. Focus group meetings with pharmacy students and other healthcare professionals are also planned.

**Thank you to all participants!** You have given valuable time and contributions to these consultations, which will make up an important part of the final project report.

You can read more about the objectives of the Future Pharmacy Project on the [PSI website](#).

## National Pharmacy Internship Programme 2016/2017

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Phase one of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme's Central Application and Selection Process (CAASP) is currently underway. The PSI and the RCSI are delighted that a significant number of pharmacy training establishments that participated in the process last year have returned to offer placements for the 2016/17 internship year, in addition to numerous new establishments offering places for the first time.

The CAASP office at the RCSI has sent direct communications to all training establishments with details of phase one registration. On 17 December, CAASP will be inviting all eligible students to register and submit their preferred placement selections. All pharmacies not registered to offer places this week have the option of participating in phase two in April 2016. Registered training establishments that do not secure an intern in this first phase will be automatically engaged in the phase two process next year. For further information about [registering](#) and listing an internship placement for the 2016/17 training year, please contact CAASP at RCSI by email to [caasp@rcsi.ie](mailto:caasp@rcsi.ie) or by phone at 01 402 5130.

Thank you all for your continued engagement and critical role you play in the training process for student pharmacists.

## Approval of interim MPharm

On 3 December 2015, the Council of the PSI approved and recognised, for a period of two years, the Master's degree in pharmacy, provided by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. This refers to the Masters degree awarded on the successful completion of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme (NPIP). With the initiation of the integrated five-year Master's degree programme in pharmacy in September 2015, it is expected that the final year of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme will operate during the 2018-2019 academic year.

## Interprofessional Learning Conference



The inaugural Health and Social Care Interprofessional Learning Conference, which was jointly hosted by the PSI in partnership with other health and social care regulators and the Department of Health, took place in Dublin Castle on 6 October 2015.

The conference attracted over 160 participants from a wide range of health and social care professions. Videos of many of the day's presentations and the plenary panel discussions are now available to view on the [IPL conference website](#), along with powerpoint presentations from the keynote and workshop presenters. A conference report will be launched in 2016.

## Fitness to Practise Finding and Sanction

Section 57 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 allows that the PSI Council shall, if satisfied that it is in the public interest, give public notice of the outcome of a fitness to practise process, as follows:

### **In the matter of Part 6 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 -Mr. Michael Keenan MPSI (Registration No. 9511).**

Following the submission of a report of the Professional Conduct Committee, the PSI Council, at its meeting on 25 June 2015, decided to cancel the registration of Mr Michael Keenan MPSI in relation to the multiple findings of professional misconduct and poor professional performance made by the Professional Conduct Committee in its report. That sanction has been upheld by the High Court.

The PSI Council was satisfied that cancellation was a proportionate sanction, having regard to the gravity and cumulative effect of the conduct in question. The findings and sanctions relating to this matter are provided, in

full, on the [PSI website](#).

## Other Notices

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### Continued Registration Going Paperless

Thank you to all registrants for their continued support and engagement during the continued registration 'paperless' transition process. As of 1 December 2015, 75% of registrants holding a registration certificate with an expiry date of 31 December 2015 have applied for continued registration using the PSI online registration facility.

Registrants are reminded that **from January 2016, all communications regarding continued registration will be by email only**. Where an individual wishes to obtain a hard copy form for registration, and selects not to use the online system, you will need to contact the office of the PSI directly. In order to use the online registration system, and to avoid any access difficulties, we wish to remind all registrants to ensure that the registered email address held by the PSI is kept up to date. You can update your own information using the [online system](#) or by contacting the PSI's [Registration Unit](#).

### HPRA Drug Safety Newsletters

The Health Products Regulatory Authority has issued two Drug Safety Newsletter (DSN) in recent days: link to the [71<sup>st</sup> edition](#) and [72<sup>nd</sup> edition](#) of the DSN.

The 71st edition includes a reminder about oral methotrexate and the risk of unintentional overdose due to medication errors. As pharmacists are key healthcare professionals involved in the supply of this high risk medicine, the PSI reminds all pharmacist of our [Guidance for Pharmacists on Safe Supply of Oral Methotrexate](#).

### Duty Registers 2016

All registered pharmacies will shortly receive the Retail Pharmacy Business Duty Register for 2016. If you have not received this by the first week of January 2016 please email [info@psi.ie](mailto:info@psi.ie) with the name and address of your pharmacy so that we can send a Register out to you.

### PSI Christmas Opening Hours

Please note that our office will be closed on 24, 25 and 28 December, and on New Year's Day. We will be open Tuesday to Thursday, 29 to 31 December. As usual, please contact PSI reception on 01-218 4000 or email [info@psi.ie](mailto:info@psi.ie) during this time if you have a query.

## Upcoming CPD Opportunities

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### Quality Improvement in the Supply of High Risk Medicines Workshops

The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) with iaCME will hold a series of Quality Improvement in the Supply of High Risk Medicines Workshops in the coming months. The next workshops will take place on Friday, 22 January 2016; and Friday, 19 February 2016 at the Irish Management Institute in Sandymount, Dublin.

The one day, face to face training programme focuses on the application of learnings from the online [Managing Quality in Pharmacy Practice course](#) which is available on the IIOP website, and which must be taken in advance of workshop attendance. Details in full and booking options are available on the [IIOP website](#), along with listings of other upcoming courses and events.

12/16/2015

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