

# Code of Conduct

## Professional Principles, Standards and Ethics for Pharmacists



**The Pharmacy Regulator**  
An Rialtóir Cógaisíochta

Autumn 2019

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Professional Principles, Standards  
and Ethics for Pharmacists

## Overview for this evening

- What is the Code of Conduct?
- Why and how was the Code revised?
- What is different in this revised Code?
- Why does the Code matter?
- Guest speaker
- Ethical dilemma & group discussion

## What is the Code of Conduct?

- Public declaration of the principles and ethical standards which govern pharmacists in the practice of their profession, and which the public, patients, other healthcare professionals and society require and expect from pharmacists.

# Why was the Code reviewed?

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First published in 2009

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PSI Council considered it appropriate that it be reviewed to reflect changes in Irish society and in pharmacy practice since 2009

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Aim: support pharmacists in their current and future professional practice, and to ensure that pharmacists provide the best possible health outcomes for their patients

# Review Process

## Engagement

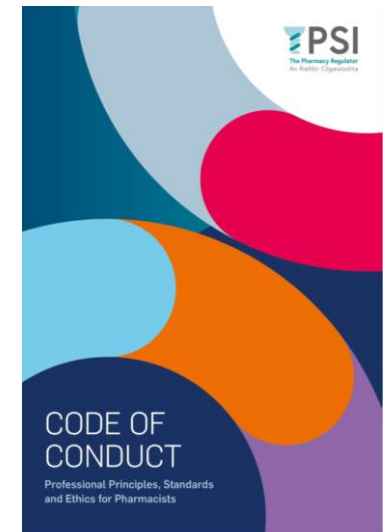
- Internal Review & Research
- Public + Stakeholders + **Pharmacists**

## Update

- Expert Workshop
- Public consultation on draft

## Publish

- Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
- Minister for Health



# Themes to be strengthened in the Code of Conduct

- Professional judgement
- Patient first
- CPD and competence
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Other themes
- Raising a concern
- Confidentiality
- Health and wellbeing of pharmacists
- Honesty and integrity
- Incident reporting/Open disclosure
- Off-duty conduct
- Assisted decisionmaking
- Vulnerable people
- Patient safety
- Leadership
- Consent



# Important Character traits for pharmacists




Revised  
Code  
Drafted

In the context of

- Themes to be strengthened
- Character Traits highlighted
- Expert Feedback
- Societal Changes
- Legislative Changes

Draft Code published for Consultation





Consultation  
on the draft  
Code 2018

## Emerging Themes

Professionalism  
Open Disclosure and Raising Concerns  
Evidence based practice  
Societal Expectations  
Conscientious Objection  
Maintaining Competence



Code updated and finalised

# WHAT'S NEW?

The number of principles has increased from 6 to 7

The language of the Code is clearer

Increased focus on using professional judgement and clinical expertise in order to make ethical decisions, while observing relevant legislation, practice standards and guidance

Distinctly patient focused, centred on professionalism and care



# Why does the Code matter?



## Ethics

Values

Behaviours

Provides a framework to support pharmacists in making difficult decisions

Guide practice – public interest



## Misconduct

Case Law: serious breach

“conduct has fallen seriously short...of the standard of conduct expected amongst practitioners”

Misconduct is **not** an act, omission or pattern of conduct that consists of a wrongly formed, but honestly formed, professional judgement.



## Applying the Code

Comply with the 7 principles

Use professional judgement and clinical expertise to make ethical decisions

Use the Code in tandem with legislation, practice standards and guidance

Justify any decisions made

Must vs should



## Trust

Professionalism

Competence

Probity

Integrity

Accountable



# 21 October 2019

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When does  
the 'new'  
Code come  
into effect?

The 2009 Code shall continue to  
apply to all actions taken by  
pharmacists prior to the 2019  
Code coming into effect

# Ethical Dilemma



# Group Discussion



# PSI Website – Supporting Resources

## Code of Conduct- Professionals Principles, Standards and Ethics for Pharmacists

The Code of Conduct is a public declaration of the principles and ethical standards which govern pharmacists in the practice of their profession, and which the public, patients, other healthcare professionals and society require and expect from pharmacists. The [Code of Conduct](#) was revised and updated in 2019. The updated Code acknowledges the changes that have taken place in the delivery of healthcare in recent years, the evolving role of pharmacists and the exercise of professional judgement by pharmacists in the fulfilment of their professional responsibilities to patients and the public. The updated Code applies to all pharmacists and is distinctly patient-centred, focussing on ensuring that all pharmacists practise in a way that maintains and improves the health, wellbeing, care and safety of patients. The revised seven-principle Code is intended to support pharmacists working in modern Ireland and has taken into account changes in Irish healthcare legislation and our society.

The new Code was launched on 25 September 2019 to coincide with World Pharmacists Day and **will come into effect on 21 October 2019**. The [Code of Conduct \(2009\)](#) remains in place until 21 October 2019.



### Seven Principles in the Code

[Expand all](#)

- [Put the Patient First](#)
- [Act Professionally](#)
- [Communicate Effectively](#)
- [Work With Others](#)
- [Show Leadership](#)
- [Maintain Competence](#)
- [Be open and Honest](#)





# ANY QUESTIONS?



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