
Agenda Item E.1, F.2,G.2, H.1, and I.2

Report on material decisions of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

From: Rory O'Donnell, Chair of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

The Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee met on Thursday, 6 June 2024, at 10 am. The meeting was held online via MS Teams.

The agenda items below refer to the matters before Council for decision. The full agenda for the Committee meeting can be found in Annex 1. This highlights the additional items discussed and items that were for information only.

Agenda Item E.1 - Update on operationalising the TCQR route process leading to registration as a pharmacist

The Committee was briefed on amendments to the Third Country Qualification Recognition (TCQR) process, proposing to remove the mandatory adaptation period for applicants.

The Committee was briefed on a comparative analysis that was conducted with other Irish regulators that provide a 'fast track' assessment route and also those that use examination as a compensation measure. The proposed revised route will use an examination as a compensation measure to address any deficiencies that may be identified at the holistic assessment stage of the route. The examination will have two components: a Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) exam and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) examination. The outcome of the holistic assessment will determine if one or both components will be required to address any identified deficiencies in an applicant's qualification.

The Committee discussed the operational elements of the revised route extensively and made additional recommendations, including incorporating a review period for the new route into the revised process.

The Committee is recommending to Council that the mandatory adaptation period in the revised TCQR route, previously approved by the Council in 2022, be removed.

Agenda Item F.2 - CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants - Consultation Draft: CPD Themes to support continuing professional development of Pharmaceutical Assistants

The Committee heard that, following the Council's approval of the report from Mazars in June 2023, which outlined a CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants, draft CPD themes had been developed to support the delivery of the new CPD system. The draft CPD themes were developed in consultation with the Pharmaceutical Assistants Association (PAA). These themes were presented to the Committee for approval for public consultation.

The Committee expressed support for the themes, finding them descriptive and clear, and commended the collaboration and engagement between the Executive and the Pharmaceutical Assistants Association.

The Committee is approving the draft CPD themes for Pharmaceutical Assistants to progress to the consultation stage.

Agenda Item G.2 - IOP Updates & Eportfolio Review Policy 2024/2025

The Committee received an update on the oversight of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system for pharmacists in Ireland by the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IOP). This includes management of the ePortfolio Review process, governed by Rule 11(5) of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Continuing Professional Development) Rules 2015. The Committee heard that the ePortfolio Review Policy underwent an internal review on 23 May 2024, with no changes proposed.

The Committee recommends that the Council approve the ePortfolio Review Policy at its meeting on 20 June 2024.

Agenda Item H.1 - Expert Taskforce – Implementation of Recommendations to Support the Expansion of Pharmacist Roles - Revised Draft Guidelines to support Medicines Therapy Review, Counselling and Prescription Extension

Updated PSI Guidelines on Medicine Therapy Review, Counselling and Prescription Extension were approved for public consultation by the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee at its April meeting. The purpose of the draft guidelines are to support pharmacists with the safe implementation of recent legislative changes to enable pharmacists to extend the validity of certain prescriptions.

The public consultation was open from 24 April to 15 May. PSI received 169 usable responses to the online survey and three additional responses by email. A focus group meeting was also conducted on 15 May with 20 members of the PSI Pharmacist Panel. Feedback from the consultation and focus group was carefully considered and incorporated into the revised guidelines.

The Committee welcomed the changes to the revised guidelines in response to the consultation, commenting on the enabling nature of the principles-based framework. The Committee highlighted that some respondents to the consultation had commented on the accessibility of language overall. As outlined in the consultation report, in response to the feedback from the public consultation and the pharmacist panel, amendments were made to the wording to make points clearer and more accessible.

The Committee is recommending approval of the revised Guidelines to support Medicines Therapy Review, Counselling and Prescription Extension, to Council at its meeting on 20 June 2024.

Agenda Item - I.2 - Advance reform of the Pharmacy Act - Project Health card Update

The Committee was informed about a proposed change in approach to this project. Due to competing priorities, particularly the Council's appetite to review and reform the Fitness to Practise processes and the anticipated recommendations of the Expert Taskforce regarding the expansion of the role of pharmacy, the Committee was asked to consider a change to the proposed research stage of the project. Instead, resources will be redirected to focus on these priority areas. The Committee broadly agreed with and supported this change in direction.

The Committee is approving the amendment to the Advance Reform of the Pharmacy Act Project Health card.

**Agenda for PSI Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee
on 6 June 2024 at 10 am.**

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format at PSI House and on Microsoft Teams.

Colour code: Red—for decision; Green—for discussion; Blue—for information

Agenda Notation: * = document provided in advance;

** = will be presented in slide deck at the meeting;

*** = verbal update

Indicative time	Item and descriptor		Presenter
10.00	A	Apologies	Chair
10.02	B	Declaration of Interests (See appendix A below)	Chair
10.03	C	Approval of Meeting Agenda*	Chair
10.04	D	Approval of Minutes – 11 April 2024 meeting*	Chair
10.05	E	Operationalisation of Third Country Qualification Recognition Route	Head of Community Pharmacy Assurance/ L Irwin
	E.1	Update on operationalising the TCQR route process leading to registration as a pharmacist*	
	E.2	Project Health Card Update*	
10.35	F	Revised CPD Models	D Gaughan C O'Connell P Corbett
	F.1	CPD Model For Pharmacists Project Health Card Update: Revised CPD Model for Pharmacists*	
	F.2	CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants Consultation Draft: CPD Themes to support continuing professional development of Pharmaceutical Assistants*	
	F.3	Project Health Card Update: Development of CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants*	
11.00	G	IIOp Updates	D Gaughan C O'Connell P Corbett
	G.1	Quarterly update on IIOp operations and developments*	
	G.2	EPortfolio Review Policy 2024/2025*	

11.10	H H.1 H.2 H.3 H.4	<p>Expert Taskforce – Implementation of Recommendations to Support the Expansion of Pharmacist Roles</p> <p>Memo: Revised Draft Guidelines to support Medicines Therapy Review, Counselling and Prescription Extension (following Public Consultation) *</p> <p>Public Consultation Report*</p> <p>Revised Draft Guidelines to support Medicines Therapy Review, Counselling and Prescription Extension*</p> <p>Project Health Card update*</p>	D Burns/ O Carroll
11.30	I I.1 I.2	<p>Advance reform of the Pharmacy Act</p> <p>Progress update**</p> <p>Project Health card update*</p>	D Burns
11.45	J J.1	<p>Hospital Pharmacy Regulation</p> <p>Position paper on Hospital Pharmacy Regulation*</p>	Head of Community Pharmacy Assurance / L Irwin
12.00	K K.1	<p>Emerging Risks to Future Pharmacy Workforce</p> <p>Project Health card update*</p>	D Gaughan C O'Connell Louise Hamra
12.10	L L.1 L.2	<p>2024 Work Plan Projects – Project Health Cards</p> <p>Implementation of Policy Developments Relating to Pharmacy*</p> <p>Patient Safety and Quality Initiatives*</p>	D Burns
12.20	M	<p style="text-align: center;">AOB -Meeting close- Next meeting date: 19 September 2024</p>	Chair

APPENDIX

Pharmacy Act 2007 Schedule 1, Section 9: Disclosure of certain interests

9. (1) In this paragraph— “connected relative”, in relation to a person, means a spouse, a man and woman who are not married to each other but are cohabiting as husband and wife, parent, brother, sister, child or spouse of a child of the person;

“meeting” means a meeting of the Council or of a committee of the Council;

“member” includes a member of a committee of the Council;

“specified matter” means—

- (a) an arrangement to which the Council is a party or a proposed such arrangement, or
- (b) a contract or other agreement with the Council or a proposed such contract or agreement.

(2) A member present at a meeting where a specified matter arises who, otherwise than in his or her capacity as a member, has an interest in that matter—

- (a) shall at the meeting, disclose that fact and the extent of the interest,
- (b) may not influence or seek to influence a decision to be made in relation to the matter,
- (c) shall absent himself or herself from the meeting or that part of the meeting during which the matter is being discussed,
- (d) may not vote on a decision relating to the matter, and
- (e) may not take part in any further deliberation of the Council or any of its committees relating to the matter.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph, but without prejudice to the generality of *subparagraph (2)*, a member shall be regarded as having an interest in a matter if a connected relative of that member or a nominee of either of them has such an interest.

(4) The disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and, for as long as the specified matter is being dealt with by the meeting, the member making the disclosure may not be counted for the purposes of determining the presence of a quorum for the meeting.

(5) The question of whether a member’s course of conduct, is or would be a contravention of *subparagraph (2)* shall be determined by the chair, whose decision shall be final, and the particulars of the determination shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(6) Where the member referred to in *subparagraph (4)* is the chair, the meeting shall choose another member to chair it for the purposes of the determination.

(7) If satisfied that a member has contravened *subparagraph (2)*, the Minister may remove the member from office and that person is then disqualified from office.

