

## **Memorandum of Understanding between the Crisis Pregnancy Agency and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland**

### **1. Parties**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Crisis Pregnancy Agency (CPA) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI). The Registrar/Chief Officer of the PSI and the Director of the CPA shall have responsibility for monitoring and ensuring compliance with this Memorandum of Understanding.

### **2. Scope and Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between the CPA and the PSI and applies to the Republic of Ireland only and is intended to provide a framework to assist the joint working of the two organisations to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency when carrying out their functions.

### **3. Context in which this Memorandum of Understanding is made**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) as established under the Pharmacy Act 2007 is charged with regulating the practice and profession of pharmacy in Ireland in the public interest. The PSI's principal functions under the Pharmacy Act 2007 are as follows:

- The PSI maintains the Register of Pharmacists, Druggists, Pharmaceutical Assistants and Retail Pharmacy Businesses in Ireland. The PSI also determines and applies the criteria of registration to each application as laid down in the Pharmacy Act 2007 and the statutory rules made thereunder.
- The PSI regulates the profession of pharmacy in the State having regard to the need to protect, maintain and promote the health and safety of the public. The PSI draws up codes of conduct for pharmacists and oversees the quality assurance and application of best practice across the sector. The PSI promotes the highest standards of pharmacy practice. Under the Pharmacy Act 2007 the PSI has the power to make public statements about any aspect of pharmacy to which its functions relate.
- The PSI accredits undergraduate pharmacy degree programmes offered in the State and acts as the registration authority for pharmacists wishing to practise in Ireland who have obtained their qualification outside of Ireland and the EU and acts as the competent authority for mutual recognition of qualifications from other EU countries. The PSI acts to promote and ensure a high standard of education and training for persons seeking to become pharmacists, including continuing professional development.
- The PSI has the power to inspect pharmacy practices, enforce pharmacy legislation and enforce various statutory provisions in respect of the practice of pharmacy and the sale and supply of medicines in Ireland. The PSI conducts

inquiries to determine “fitness to practise” and “fitness to operate” and processes complaints relating to pharmacy practice and operation.

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency is a planning and co-ordinating body established to formulate and implement a strategy to address the issue of crisis pregnancy in Ireland through:

1. A reduction in the number of crisis pregnancies by the provision of education, advice and contraceptive services.
2. A reduction in the number of women with crisis pregnancies who opt for abortion by offering services and supports which make other options more attractive.
3. The provision of counselling services, medical services and such other health services for the purpose of providing support, after crisis pregnancy, as may be deemed appropriate by the Agency.

The Agency’s strategy, *Leading an Integrated Approach to Reducing Crisis Pregnancy 2007 – 2011* aims to deliver its mandates through seven strategic objectives. These include:

- Achieving measurable improvements in knowledge about relationships and sexuality among adolescents through home, school and community-based education
- Improving access to and information on contraception and contraceptive services, particularly for groups at risk of crisis pregnancy
- Conducting effective and innovative communications campaigns to promote positive behavioural and cultural changes regarding sexual attitudes, choices and behaviour.
- Improving access to and delivery of crisis pregnancy counselling services and post-abortion medical and counselling services
- Improving the range and nature of supports central to making continuation of pregnancy more attractive. Ensuring that women, their partners and families are fully informed about these supports
- Strengthening understanding of the contributory factors and solutions to crisis pregnancy; using research findings to promote evidence-based practice and policy development
- Influencing policy makers and key players regarding prevention of crisis pregnancy, reproductive decision-making and crisis pregnancy outcomes

#### **4. Co-operation**

The PSI and the CPA are both engaged in the discharge of their respective functions in the public interest, with particular focus on the protection and enhancement of public health. This Memorandum of Understanding will facilitate collaboration between the PSI and the CPA. The PSI and CPA will pursue opportunities for cooperation when planning and developing policies of a common interest. This co-operation seeks to overcome barriers to seeking joint and standardised approaches to policy and operational matters through the guidance and decisions of their respective Council/Board.

## 5. Communication and other issues

The PSI and the CPA recognise and acknowledge the important role that education has to play in ensuring the wider knowledge and understanding of the regulatory and administrative frameworks and their implementation and operation that are of concern to both organisations. To this end, both bodies are committed, where relevant, to sharing and working together on the provision of guidance for pharmacists, other stakeholders and the wider public as appropriate.

## 6. Commencement and Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon a signature of both parties and shall continue until such time as it is terminated or superseded by a revised document.

Kaivene Bulbulia      Chairperson      18.6.2010  
Signed on behalf of the CPA      Position      Date

Nolan Harvey      President      18/6/10  
Signed on behalf of the PSI      Position      Date