

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **INSTITUTE COMMENTS ON PHARMACY STANDARDS**

The Institute of Pharmacy Management recently responded to the GPhC Pharmacy Standards Consultation. Key points are

- 1 Council is unclear about the status of existing RPSGB guidance and Code of Ethics as only a few of the existing standards have been considered.
- 2 GPhC should build on RPSGB's strengths, rather starting afresh and creating concern and uncertainty. It should add new standards necessary for the wider role of GPhC in regulating owners also in a common style. We suggest that the GPhC should initially adopt existing RPSGB standards and then take an evolutionary approach in priority order. This way, the GPhC will be using the existing framework of what was seen as an exemplary regulator by PRLOG. The RPSGB standards fit together better than these proposed and have a common style.
- 3 The documents are too long and detailed and require a lot more editorial work on standardization and modification, especially to reflect the fact that pharmacists and technicians are different and have different responsibilities, knowledge and training. A Common Code of Ethical Principles is acceptable but standards must differ in many areas of practice.
- 4 The response form has very few questions and. We therefore feel unable to give the detail of these important documents the attention they deserve. Some questions go beyond the standards documents in areas that require separate consideration such as P medicines
- 5 The following are the crucial issues for us
  - There is no Code of Ethics merely Standards. The RPSGB Code is short memorable and capable of adaptation into standards. The status of this needs clarification.
  - Whilst a General Code could cover both pharmacists and technicians [and maybe even other professions as well], there must be different levels of standards in some areas to reflect the legal responsibilities of pharmacists and the different levels of knowledge competencies and skills of technicians.
  - Many of the Standards are too specific for pharmacists and are largely written for those in clinical practice. Those who work outside as many of our members do, will find these difficult to relate to
  - Guidance for Owners and Superintendents could be widened beyond retail pharmacy by adding a section for pharmacy managers (both technicians and pharmacists) including those working outside the retail pharmacy sector. We would be happy to assist in this.
  - We need to reduce the size of the rulebook. A bureaucratic strait jacket as some of these could become, will harm rather than help the patient.

**ENDS**

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