

Update from the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)

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Topics

- The changing context of pharmacy
- Our Strategic plan 2025-2030
- Update on....
 - standards and guidance
 - inspection
- Revalidation for pharmacy professionals – a reminder
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Get involved!
- Any questions



The changing context



Fast pace of change

Technology and service provision

Number of independent pharmacist prescribers

Patient Group Directives for pharmacy technicians



Pharmacy workforce under pressure



Financial pressures



Wider health and social care system under pressure



Changing public attitudes



Policy

Strategic plan 2025-2030

- A clear direction for the next five years to help us achieve our vision of safe and effective pharmacy care at the heart of healthier communities
- The new strategic plan sets out how the GPhC will uphold safety, quality and public trust in pharmacy, and build on progress already made.



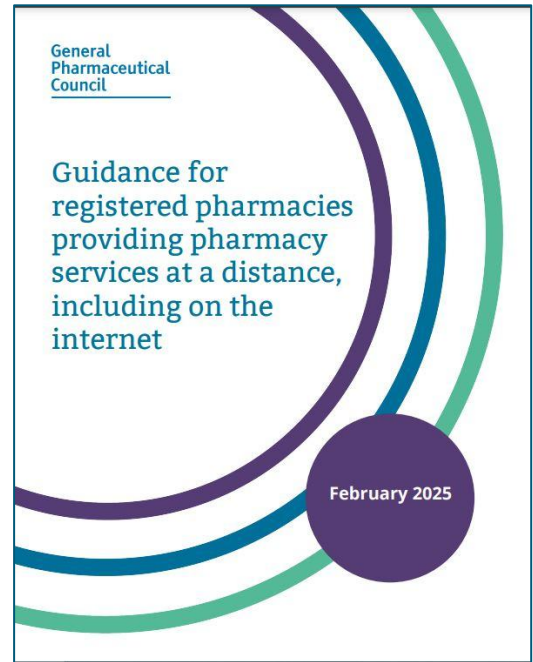
Our strategic aims for 2025-2030



- **empower** pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to provide trusted, safe and effective pharmacy care
- **protect** those using pharmacy services by working collaboratively with healthcare regulators and other organisations; and
- **build** a skilled, agile and inclusive organisation to carry out our regulatory responsibilities.

Updated guidance for online pharmacy services

We have published updated guidance that all online pharmacies are expected to follow, in response to concerns identified relating to unsafe prescribing and supply of medicines online.



Other key changes to the guidance include:

- Emphasising that online pharmacies need to follow the law and guidance on the advertising and promotion of medicines
- Further safeguards when prescribing for patients without a regular prescriber such as a GP
- Clarifying the responsibilities of an online pharmacy when it is working with a third-party prescribing service
- Being able to select a preferred prescription medicine before a consultation

Emerging patient safety concerns:



- Diversion of medicines by staff
- Checking addresses when supplying medicines at a distance
- Supplying medicines overseas
- Advertising and promotion of medicines

Update on inspections



Inspection insights



- The standards pharmacies tend to struggle to meet include:
 - risk management
 - record keeping
 - obtaining, storing and supplying medicines safely
- Pharmacies that are effectively managing risk tend to be meeting more of the standards
- Novel services tend to be where people struggle with risk assessment and management

What to consider when providing additional services

- Think about the environment you will be providing services in
- Patients and the public have told us they:
 - are concerned about privacy and confidentiality
 - are not always offered the option of using a consultation room
 - find consultation rooms can be very small or not accessible
 - expect to receive care in an environment that feels like a healthcare setting


Revalidation for pharmacy professionals – a reminder



Revalidation

Annual requirement

- 4 CPD records (a minimum of 2 planned)
- 1 peer discussion record
- 1 reflective account record



Continuous
activity by you

Submission at
annual renewal

Random and
targeted review

Review by

- A pharmacy professional and lay person
- Leading to tailored feedback and aggregate feedback for everyone

Your reflective account

You should reflect on one or more of the following standards:

- Standard 1: Pharmacy professionals must provide person-centred care
- Standard 2: Pharmacy professionals must work in partnership with others
- Standard 5: Pharmacy professionals must use their professional judgement

Resources to help you

- Revalidation Framework
- Sector and role-based examples of CPD, reflective account and peer discussion records
- Peer discussion guidance for pharmacy professionals, for peers, and for employers



Equality, diversity and inclusion



Focus on equality, diversity and inclusion



- Analysis of diversity data of professionals involved in the GPhC managing concerns process
- Our equality focused roundtables
- Equality snapshots and case studies to support learning in the pharmacy team
- Our new Anti-Racism Champions

Get involved



Getting involved



Visit www.pharmacyregulation.org/get-involved to:

- ✓ Sign up to receive news and update emails from us
- ✓ Take part in our consultations
- ✓ Find out about upcoming events and webinars
- ✓ Find out about joining our feedback forums

Any questions?



Thank you!

Find out more about the GPhC by:

- Visiting our website – www.pharmacyregulation.org
- Following us on social media
 - @TheGPhC on X
 - **Facebook.com/TheGPhC**
 - **linkedin.com/company/general-pharmaceutical-council**