



Dear Colleague

1 October 2010

Introduction of the new General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Registration Number

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

Chief Executive, NHS NSS

1. This Circular provides interim advice to community pharmacists on the use of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registration number and Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) membership number (i.e. your old RPSGB registration number) when providing pharmaceutical services.

Background

Enquiries to:

ePharmacy Helpdesk
Tel: 0131 275 6600

Email:

Nss.psdhelp@nhs.net

2. The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) will be issuing pharmacists with a new registration number when they take over the regulatory function from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) on 27th September 2010.

3. The new GPhC registration code will be seven digits long and is all numerical – historical RPS codes can vary from four to seven digits and can also include an alphabetical letter.

4. The RPS membership number is currently used in a number of ways to support services within the community pharmacy contract (the Minor Ailment Service, Public Health Service, Acute Medication Service and Chronic Medication Service – including access to the Pharmacy Care Record), supply under the NHS 24 Unscheduled Care Patient Group Direction and pharmacist prescribing (supplementary and independent).

5. Whilst pharmacy premises will also receive a new registration number from the GPhC this does not affect any of the services because they use the NHS contractor code number to identify pharmacy premises.

Current position

6. Community pharmacists should, until advised otherwise, use the following numbers:

- **Community Pharmacy Contract services** – pharmacists should continue to use their **RPS membership number**. The ePharmacy team are currently working to identify what changes may be required to pharmacy PMR systems to accommodate the use of the GPhC registration number in the future;
- **Pharmacist Independent and Supplementary prescribers** – pharmacist prescribers should continue to use their existing prescriber pads which details their **RPS membership number** until, they receive new prescription pads from their NHS Board with the new GPhC registration number when current stocks run out; and
- **CPUS form for the Unscheduled Care PGD** – pharmacists should start to use their **GPhC registration number**.

Next steps

7. The ePharmacy team are working with pharmacy PMR system suppliers to ensure that all pharmacy PMR systems can accommodate the GPhC code going forward. The exception to this will be Pharmacy Care Record (PCR); pharmacists should continue to use their RPS membership number as their User Identification. Any new PCR User Id requests should use the pharmacist's GPhC registration number.

8. Once the ePharmacy team have established when pharmacy PMR systems can use the GPhC registration number further guidance will issue.

9. Meantime Information Services Division (ISD) will be writing to NHS Boards asking them to provide details of the GPhC registration numbers for all pharmacist prescribers by December 2010. ISD's database will hold the new GPhC registration numbers from January 2011.

Action

10. NHS Boards are asked to

- Share this Circular with community pharmacy contractors on their Pharmaceutical List, and inform IM&T facilitators that they should now ask pharmacists for their GPhC registration number when they are processing PCR user Id requests.

Yours sincerely

FRANK STRANG
Deputy Director