



Snapshot

Annual review of performance 2016/17



Regulator reviewed: **General Pharmaceutical Council**

Key facts & figures:

- Maintains a register of **pharmacists, pharmacy technicians** and **pharmacies** in **Great Britain**
- **77,285** pharmacy professionals on register
- **14,403** pharmacies on register
- Annual registration fee: **£250** (pharmacists); **£118** (pharmacy technicians); **£241** (pharmacies)

Standards of good regulation

Core functions

Annual performance review 2016/17

Met

(number of Standards)

Guidance & Standards

4/4

Education & Training

4/4

Registration

6/6

Fitness to Practise

10/10

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www.professionalstandards.org.uk/performancereviews

Focus on: **Activities and actions demonstrating how the GPhC is meeting the Standards**

In our performance review, we were pleased to note that the GPhC has met all of the Standards of Good Regulation and that it has maintained its performance.

GUIDANCE & STANDARDS: REFLECT UP-TO-DATE PRACTICE AND LEGISLATION/STAKEHOLDERS' VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN REVISING/DEVELOPING GUIDANCE

Standards for pharmacy professionals, the code of conduct, ethics and performance that registrants must adhere to were consulted on and agreed in the period under review. The GPhC completed two public consultations related to these standards. In response to the feedback and advice it received after it considered the views expressed by stakeholders in its first consultation, it changed an example in the standards and because of the implications of the changes it proposed, it amended its guidance on religion, personal values and beliefs. It sought views on these changes in the second consultation. This consultation received over 3,600 responses, with most of the responses received coming from people/organisations outside the profession.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE: REVISED THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The GPhC consulted on proposals to revise the threshold criteria it uses to decide if a case should be referred to the Investigating Committee (IC). The criteria was revised to ensure it reflected the new *Standards for pharmacy professionals* and other changes to pharmacy regulation. The revised criteria were agreed in July 2017. They will be introduced in January 2018, after staff have received training on the changes and it has produced material outlining how decisions will be made.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: PROCESS FOR QUALITY ASSURING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IS PROPORTIONATE AND TAKES ACCOUNT OF STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

We carried out a further review to check the GPhC had addressed the recommendations made in an audit report. The GPhC told us it had acted on the suggestions made in the audit. It has revised its guidance for course providers and will complete a full evaluation of its methodology on interim accreditation visits later in 2017.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE: COMPLAINTS/CASES ARE REVIEWED, PRIORITISED AND DEALT WITH AS QUICKLY POSSIBLE

An increase in the median time taken to apply for interim orders, an increase in the time taken for the IC to consider a case and a reduction in the number of cases concluded by the Fitness to Practise Committee (FtPC) prompted us to carry out targeted reviews of Standards 4 and 6. The increase in the time taken to apply for interim orders was largely due to the circumstances in six cases. Additional data and information relating to Standard 6 showed the GPhC had maintained its performance, but changes made to how it investigates cases before they are considered by the IC may be impacting its timescales. The further information provided showed there had not been a sizable reduction in the number of cases concluded by the FtPC. The work it is doing to strengthen its existing processes for interim orders and reduce the number of adjournments/postponements assured us that both Standards remain met.

REGISTRATION: REGISTRANTS MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS REQUIRED TO STAY FIT TO PRACTISE THROUGH CPD/REVALIDATION

The GPhC carried out a formal consultation on its proposals for revalidation of pharmacy professionals, after participants confirmed that a pilot of a new approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) was easier to use and stakeholders considered it provided an assurance of fitness to practise. Arrangements for the revalidation of pharmacy professionals will be introduced in stages with full implementation expected to occur by 2020.