

COI

“GPhC”

VIDEO CLIP 2

Project Manager CEMVO
Council of Ethnic Minority
Voluntary Sector Organisations

IAN FLACK:

I work for an organisation called CEMVO - the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations. We have a role in bringing to the attention of government and other institutions the special needs of ethnic minority groups and individuals. So, for example, with pharmacies it's things around can I take my pills during Ramadan? Is that material made up with alcohol, if I'm a Muslim? Does it use animal products, gelatin, for example, if I'm a Hindu? So we can help make sure these voices are heard.

It is important that the pharmacist regards his role as being just as much a guardian of patients' health as he does being the person who counts out the pills and dishes them out. It's a much more responsible role than that. He should regard himself as a partner or herself as a partner in the care of the patient. Pharmacists, having a regulatory body like the General Pharmaceutical Council brings them in to line with the other medical professions. Now for the customer I think what that does is gives them comfort and assurance that they are being treated by a pharmacist who is properly externally regulated, who has to maybe revalidate his qualifications periodically, has to follow a certain amount of continued professional development every year so that they are aware that he is as up to date as possible.

The technician is the person who's there to help the pharmacist deliver their service, making them regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council will put the seal on this professionalisation of the pharmacy technician.

My hopes for the General Pharmaceutical Council are that by working in partnership with the professional body in the pharmacy schools it will improve the regulation of pharmacies, it will improve the training and continuing professional development of

pharmacists and their technicians. It will make pharmacy held in a similar level of esteem as the other medical professions, because they will be regulated in the same way, and all of this will combine to make sure that the patient - you and me - get the best possible care from our pharmacists.

END OF VIDEO CLIP 2