Emergency registration

Purpose
To agree arrangements for temporary registration and annotation of the register in the event that an emergency is declared.

Recommendations
The Council is asked to agree:

i. arrangements for temporary registration and annotation of the Register in the event that an emergency is declared.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Under article 34 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, the GPhC will have powers to register fit, proper and suitably experienced people on a temporary basis to act as pharmacists and pharmacy technicians if an emergency is declared by the Secretary of State. In addition, under article 35, the GPhC will have powers to annotate the entries of registrants in Part 1 and Part 2 of the register. These powers will cease when the emergency ends.

1.2 In the event an emergency is declared, the GPhC will need to be able to quickly and easily identify a pool of appropriately qualified and reasonably competent people who could be called upon to stand in for registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Complex rules or procedures that take time to understand and implement would be undesirable, and likely to fail in the event an emergency is declared. Employers, registrants, potential registrants and the public need to understand who will be called upon and the limits to their responsibilities.

2.0 Key considerations

2.1 During an emergency, the operating capacity of the regulator could be seriously compromised, so it is essential that preparations are made in advance to allow the Registrar to bring suitable additional people onto the Register rapidly and efficiently in an emergency. To facilitate this, Council are asked to agree arrangements for temporary registration and annotation of the register in the event that an emergency is declared.
2.2 This policy has been developed from the Society’s current policy on temporary registration, except for the exclusion of the categories of non-practising registrants. Council are asked to consider whether a category of ‘former registrants on Part 2 of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain’s Register of Pharmacists’ should be added the groups listed under 3.1 and 3.2 of the policy.

3.0 Equality and diversity implications

3.1 If the GPhC policy excludes former non-practising RPSGB registrants, that might have an indirectly discriminatory impact with respect to the age of former pharmacists; the question for the Council would be whether the drawing of the line to exclude members of the category is necessary in public safety terms.

4.0 Communications implications

4.1 The implementation of this policy includes the requirement for a communication strategy to provide information to registrants, patients and the public and others about temporary registration before, during and after an emergency. This discrete communications strategy would need to include a reminder to temporary registrants of the ethical and professional obligation to work within their competence.

5.0 Resource implications

5.1 The implementation of the policy can be met within current resources.

6.0 Risk implications

6.1 There is a risk to the health, safety and well being of members of the public if the GPhC does not identify fit, proper and suitably experienced people to act as pharmacists and pharmacy technicians during an emergency.

Recommendations

The Council designate is asked to agree:

i. arrangements for temporary registration and annotation of the Register in the event that an emergency is declared.

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12 March 2010
Policy on temporary registration arrangements in the event of an emergency involving loss of human life or human illness

1.0 Introduction

1.1 We have powers to register fit, proper and suitably experienced people on a temporary basis to act as pharmacists and pharmacy technicians if an emergency is declared by the Secretary of State. We also have powers to annotate the entries of registrants in Part 1 and Part 2 of the register during an emergency. These powers will cease when the emergency ends.

1.2 During an emergency our operating capacity could be seriously compromised, so it is essential that preparations are made in advance to allow us to bring suitable additional people onto the Register rapidly and efficiently in an emergency.

2.0 Purpose of policy

2.1 Under article 34 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, the Registrar may temporarily enter in Part 1 (pharmacists) or Part 2 (pharmacy technicians) of the Register persons or specified groups of persons considered fit, proper and suitably experienced during an emergency.

2.2 Under article 35 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, the Registrar may temporarily annotate entries in Part 1 (pharmacists) or Part 2 (pharmacy technicians) of the Register persons or specified groups of persons considered fit, proper and suitably experienced during an emergency.

2.3 The purpose of this policy is to identify the persons or specified groups of persons considered fit, proper and suitably experienced to be temporarily registered or annotated during an emergency.

3.0 Policy statement

3.1 Under article 34 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, and upon the declaration of an emergency by the Secretary of State, the Registrar may register the following groups in Part 1 (pharmacists) for the duration of the emergency

- Former registrants on Part 1 of the Register (pharmacists) whose fitness to practise is not impaired
- Post-MPharm pre-registration trainee pharmacists
- Registrants on Part 2 of the Register (pharmacy technicians)

3.2 Under article 34 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, and upon the declaration of an emergency by the Secretary of State, the Registrar may register the following groups in Part 2 (pharmacy technicians) for the duration of the emergency

- Former registrants on Part 1 of the Register (pharmacists) whose fitness to practise is not impaired
- Former registrants on Part 2 of the Register (pharmacy technicians) whose fitness to practise is not impaired
- Post-MPharm pre-registration trainee pharmacists
• Pharmacy students who are undertaking year 3 or 4 of the MPharm

3.3 Under article 35 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, and upon the declaration of an emergency by the Secretary of State, the Registrar may annotate the following groups as prescribers for the duration of the emergency
• Registrants in Part 1 of the Register (pharmacists)

4.0 Application of policy

4.1 We will prepare the temporary registers. The temporary registers will be updated on a rolling basis but will remain unpublished until such time as an emergency is declared.

4.2 We will make the implementation of this policy part of the GPhC emergency planning procedures. This will include an operations strategy to publish, maintain, review and close the temporary registers if an emergency is declared and a communication strategy to provide information to registrants, patients and the public and others about temporary registration before, during and after an emergency.

5.0 Measurement and evaluation

5.1 After an emergency, we will hold a review on the implementation of this policy and seek feedback from staff, registrants, patients and the public and other stakeholders.

5.2 The policy will be evaluated on an annual basis to review if the persons and groups identified are still considered fit, proper and suitable experienced to be temporarily registered or annotated during an emergency.

5.3 The policy will be reviewed if there are any amendments or additions to the categories of annotation to Part 1 or Part 2 of the Register.

Stuart Heaney
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Reference: [To be allocated when the policy is approved]
Effective date: [Insert date]
Review date: [Insert date]