Regulatory Standards Policy

Purpose
To consider and agree the regulatory standards policy

Recommendations

The Council is asked to agree:

i. the regulatory standards policy set out in Appendix 1

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council discussed the development of a standards policy at its meeting in June.

1.2 It was agreed that in addition to beginning work on developing the comprehensive suite of standards, a standards policy should be developed. This is now attached at Appendix 1.

1.3 The Council has previously seen a standards development timetable which is currently being reviewed.

2.0 Key Considerations

2.1 It is important that the standards policy sets out our approach to developing, publishing, monitoring and reviewing our standards and related supplementary guidance.

2.2 The policy should clearly set out the principles that apply when developing standards. These principles must be applied to any standards we develop and
publish.

2.3 The policy also sets out how our standards should be used by pharmacy professionals in their day to day practice and the status of the standards.

3.0 **Equality and diversity implications**

3.1 Standards development has equality and diversity implications.

3.2 Engagement with key parties will ensure that equality and diversity implications are identified and these will then need to be considered and taken account of when developing our standards. Our standards must comply with our equality scheme.

4.0 **Communications implications**

4.1 To be effective our standards will require detailed engagement with our stakeholders.

4.2 We will need to promote all our standards and guidance to key interested parties.

4.3 Engagement with both pharmacy professionals and those who engage with or affected by pharmacy practice will be key to informing the review of our standards.

5.0 **Resource implications**

5.1 Our core requirements to engage and consult on our standards can be met within our existing budget.

5.2 Additional resource may be required to use innovative and new ways of engagement.

6.0 **Risk implications**

6.1 Council has a statutory duty to set standards and to consult on proposed standards. There is a risk to public health and safety and to the reputation of the GPhC if the development, implementation and review of standards is not done in an appropriate way.
Recommendations

The Council is asked to agree:

i. the regulatory standards policy set out in Appendix 1

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20 October 2010
Regulatory Standards Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 We are responsible for setting standards that ensure the safe and effective practice of pharmacy. We are also responsible for setting the education and training standards for pharmacy professionals.

1.2 Our standards form an integral part of our regulatory framework.

2.0 Purpose of policy

2.1 The Pharmacy Order 2010 details the standards that we need to set.

2.2 This policy sets out our approach to developing, publishing, monitoring and reviewing our standards and related guidance. It also sets out the status of these documents, and the way in which these standards should be used by pharmacy professionals.

3.0 Policy statement

Principles

3.1 Our standards must:

- secure the safe and effective practice of pharmacy in Great Britain;
- define the core requirements for all pharmacy professionals
- remain relevant and up-to-date
- be outcome focussed and support the development of innovative practice
- inform patients, the public, pharmacy professionals and pharmacy owners about the standards they can expect from pharmacy professionals and registered pharmacy premises.

Development

3.2 We will develop our standards through collaboration with all key interest groups, both from the pharmacy professions and those who engage with or affected by pharmacy practice. They will be subject to full consultation and appropriate models of engagement.

3.3 Where appropriate, we will issue guidance to support the understanding and implementation of our standards. This guidance will explain how pharmacy professionals can meet the standards set by us.

3.4 We recognise that there may be more than one way in which a pharmacy professional can meet the standards. Therefore, a pharmacy professional whose practice diverges from the guidance will need to be able to demonstrate the reasons for this and that there was no negative impact on patient safety or undermining of confidence in the profession.

3.5 We recognise that other organisations, such as professional leadership bodies, trade associations, defence organisations and other agencies may also issue guidance. Pharmacy professionals should consider the availability of such guidance, particularly...
about detailed practice and use it to inform decision making where appropriate.

**Publishing**

3.6 The standards for conduct, ethics and performance and continuing professional development have been issued and are available to all pharmacy professionals.

3.7 All guidance documents that we produce are published on our website.

**Monitoring**

3.8 A pharmacy professional’s conduct will be judged against the standards. As a regulator our primary concern is a registrant’s fitness to practise and maintaining confidence in the professions. The standards, and any relevant supplementary guidance, will be central to any decision about whether we need to take any regulatory action.

3.9 Pharmacy professionals must use their professional judgement when deciding on a course of action and should use our standards and relevant supplementary guidance as a basis for making those decisions.

3.10 We will monitor our standards using a variety of methods. We will work with colleagues, for example the inspectorate and fitness to practise teams, to ensure our standards remain relevant, appropriate to current practice, accessible and fully understood by the professions. We will also continue to develop relationships with external stakeholders, including pharmacy professionals, patients and the public and others to generate continuous feedback on our standards.

4.0 **Application of policy**

4.1 The Director of Policy and Communications is responsible for the application of this policy.

5.0 **Measurement and evaluation**

5.1 The standards will be reviewed annually as part of the review of the standards development framework. We will consider a range of evaluation methods including quantitative and qualitative research.

[Insert author, title, department]

Reference: [To be allocated when the policy is approved]

Effective date: [Insert date]

Review date: [Insert date]