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By email: [workforce@rpharms.com](mailto:workforce@rpharms.com)

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

## **Consultation on the statement on the role of the pharmacist**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your consultation about the role of the pharmacist.

We welcome the approach you are taking to set out the contribution that pharmacists play in the health, safety and wellbeing of the public. In our Strategic Plan for 2017-20<sup>1</sup> we have highlighted the growing expectations on everyone working within health and care – including pharmacy – to provide better quality experiences and outcomes to patients and the public.

In your overview and introduction you highlight the breadth of knowledge and experience that pharmacists have, and the contribution they make, in serving the public. You indicate that, in a rapidly changing environment, there are a variety of specific roles that pharmacists may undertake both now and in the future. We agree with this and believe it would be worth considering whether the title of the statement itself should refer to the skills, knowledge and contribution of the pharmacist rather than the role, particularly as the focus of the statement is on pharmacists' core attributes and abilities.

We agree with the core attributes and abilities listed in the statement. We welcome the explicit reference to being person-centred and promoting safety as core attributes. However, while there

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<sup>1</sup> GPhC (2017) Strategic plan 2017-20: year two, available at [https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/gphc\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2017-20\\_year\\_two.pdf](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/gphc_strategic_plan_2017-20_year_two.pdf)

may be unique elements to pharmacy compared with other elements of healthcare, we think that care should be taken in defining these as unique to the profession, as written in the introduction. For example, we expect all persons working in the health and care sector, including other members of the pharmacy team, to understand and take account of the differing needs of individuals and to be promoting safety. We also think it may be helpful to clarify the reference to 'person-centred' on page 4 of the document. While it is true that pharmacists will impact on the public and patients regardless of where they work, we do not think this is a sufficient explanation of being person-centred. As you subsequently highlight on the following page, being person-centred is much more about focusing on people's individual needs and involving them in decisions about their health.

We welcome the references to pharmacists leading the pharmacy team, maximising skill mix in the team and leading a culture of candour and openness. We think it is worth considering whether the reference to leading a culture of candour and openness should be identified as a core attribute in itself rather than solely as an example of promoting safety.

We think the statement sets out attributes and abilities clearly for other health professionals and the public, although there are some terms which will not be immediately clear to the public (e.g. pharmacogenomics and pharmacotherapy). To aid clarity, it may also be worth ensuring consistent references in respect of 'pharmacists' and 'registered pharmacists'. At present, both appear in the statement, which may cause some confusion.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Voce', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Voce

Director of Education and Standards – Interim

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