



# Consultation on remote hearings

## Newsletter copy

Please help us to spread the word about our consultation on remote hearings through your newsletters or other communications with your colleagues and/or members. For your convenience, please find below pre-written articles incorporating the short URL which will link to the consultation landing page.

### For professional audiences

#### **The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) seeks views on continuing to hold remote hearings**

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is consulting on a proposed permanent change to their procedural rules to provide express legal power to conduct hearings and meetings by teleconference or videolink in the future. This consultation is open until 8 February 2022.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the GPhC held some fitness to practise hearings remotely by videolink. The success of these remote hearings and the positive feedback from those taking part has demonstrated to the GPhC that remote hearings should also be an option beyond the pandemic.

The GPhC wants to know your views about holding remote hearings to help inform the next steps and guide its long-term approach to remote hearings.

The consultation is seeking views on the positive and negative impacts of continuing to hold some hearings remotely on patients and the public, pharmacy professionals and individuals or groups sharing protected characteristics. Views are also being sought on any circumstances when a hearing should not be held remotely.

Make sure you share your views - **[complete the consultation survey now](#)**

You can find out more on the GPhC website, by following @TheGPhC on Twitter or at Facebook.com/TheGPhC

## For patient and public audiences

### What are your views on holding fitness to practise hearings for pharmacy professionals remotely by videolink?

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in Great Britain. Its role is to protect patients and the public and give them assurance that they will receive safe and effective care when using pharmacy services.

The GPhC investigates concerns about individual pharmacists and pharmacy technicians where there may be a risk to patient safety or the public confidence in pharmacy could be affected. Serious cases are referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee, a panel who hold a hearing to consider whether a pharmacy professional's fitness to practise is impaired.

Fitness to practise hearings would normally be held in person, but during the COVID-19 pandemic the GPhC held some hearings remotely by teleconference or videolink. The success of these remote hearings and the positive feedback from those taking part has demonstrated to the GPhC that remote hearings should also be an option beyond the pandemic.

The GPhC is seeking views to help guide its long-term approach to holding remote hearings and want to hear from patients, carers, and members of the public on:

- the **positive and negative impacts of continuing to hold some hearings remotely** on patients and the public and individuals or groups sharing protected characteristics
- **any circumstances when a hearing should not be held remotely**

You can take part by **completing the consultation survey now** (closes 8 February 2022).

You can find out more on the GPhC website, by following @TheGPhC on Twitter or at Facebook.com/TheGPhC