

# Temporary registration arrangements for pharmacy professionals during the COVID-19 emergency

## Advice for pharmacy owners and employers of pharmacy professionals

March 2020

This guidance explains the obligations and responsibilities of pharmacy owners and employers of pharmacy professionals, when employing a pharmacy professional on the temporary register during the COVID-19 emergency.

Owners of registered pharmacies are responsible for ensuring the safe and effective provision of pharmacy services at or from a registered pharmacy and are accountable for making sure that the **standards for registered pharmacies** are met.

Even though we appreciate that there may be some deviation from established practice due to exceptional circumstances, we expect that pharmacy owners will continue to meet the standards, any relevant guidance, and their legal obligations.

We also expect pharmacy owners to make sure that our **guidance to ensure a safe and effective pharmacy team** continues to be followed.

### Emergency powers

Under article 34 of the Pharmacy Order 2010, we have powers to register, on a temporary basis, fit, proper and suitably experienced people to act as pharmacists and pharmacy technicians if an emergency is declared by the Secretary of State. Under the legislation, we also have powers to annotate the entries of registrants during an emergency. These powers will stop as soon as the emergency comes to an end. You can **read our policy on temporary registration arrangements in the event of an emergency on our website.**

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has now asked the GPhC to use these emergency powers in order to register pharmacy professionals to assist in the national response to the current emergency.

The **temporary register has now been published on our website.** The temporary register includes pharmacy professionals who had voluntarily removed themselves or were removed for non-renewal from the GPhC register in the last three years and did not have fitness to practise issues. Those eligible for temporary registration were given the option to opt-out before the register was published.

The pharmacy professionals being included on the temporary register do not need to pay a registration fee or complete revalidation. They have also not completed any application to return to the register and have not had to complete any declarations about their current fitness to practise.

### **Responsibilities of pharmacy owners and employers**

When employing a pharmacy professional on the temporary register, the pharmacy owner or employer must make sure:

- the pharmacy professional's name appears on the temporary register
- appropriate identity checks are carried out for all staff they employ
- all staff have the right knowledge, skills, experience and competence for their role and the tasks they are asked to carry out, including in relation to their English language skills
- all staff have appropriate indemnity insurance for the tasks they carry out
- all staff they employ are fit to practise.

**Important:** we do not have a role, or any powers, in relation to workforce deployment or the contractual basis on which temporarily-registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians may be asked to work.

### **Information for pharmacy professionals on the temporary register**

Further information for pharmacy professionals on the temporary register is available on our [temporary registration during the COVID-19 emergency page](#).