

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

2017 No. 188

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by Article 5(1) of the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976. It has been approved by the Department of Health for Northern Ireland in accordance with Article 25A(2) of that Order and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Statutory rule will bring forward regulations which: (i) enable the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in Northern Ireland to be annotated with the letters 'IP' signifying that the Registrant is qualified to be a Pharmacist Independent Prescriber; (ii) set the conditions by which such an annotation can be made and; (iii) regularise the regulations in regard to Supplementary Prescribers.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is the regulatory body for pharmacists in Northern Ireland with a primary purpose to ensure that practising pharmacists are fit to practise, keep their skills and knowledge up to date and deliver high quality safe care to patients. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland undertook a comprehensive review of its regulations in regards to Annotations to the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists and seeks to make relevant amendments to the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland launched a consultation on 14 November 2016. This ran for 8 weeks and closed on 10 January 2017. All pharmacists on the register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in Northern Ireland were informed via email of the consultation. In addition the consultation was advertised on the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's website and through its social media channels. A total of 8 responses were received. Following full consideration of all responses the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland concluded that the proposed Regulations will provide the correct legislative basis for annotation on the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists and only minor amendments were made to the wording in the Regulations.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland has screened this Statutory Rule for the purposes of s75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and has concluded that an Equality Impact Assessment is not necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. The Regulations do not require a Regulatory Impact Assessment as no adverse impact has been identified.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Negligible. The measures being introduced in the draft regulations do represent a one off additional cost to registrants, however these costs are judged to be proportionate and necessary for the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to perform its statutory functions.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The proposed Statutory Rule is compatible with s24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. There are no EU implications as the draft regulations recognise the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.