



Your 5 minute guide to the Society's Royal Charter

Why is the Royal Pharmaceutical Society changing?

In the 2007 White Paper, 'Trust, Assurance & Safety', the Government committed to separating regulation from professional leadership in all the health professions. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has responded to this, and in 2010 it will form a new professional leadership body to support pharmacists. At that stage, regulation of the profession will be carried out by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

What vote is taking place in June?

The Society's Royal Charter needs to be changed to enable the transition to the two separate organisations to take place, and for the new professional leadership body to become a reality. We have already consulted with members to get your initial views on the proposed changes. Council has taken your comments into account, has made some changes, and is now asking pharmacists to vote on the Society's Charter.



Why do you need to vote?

Without your 'Yes' vote we can't make the changes the profession is asking for:

- If you want a new professional leadership body which will provide you with the products and services you need to support your professional and career development - you need to vote 'yes'
- If you want a body which will truly represent your interests, and effectively lobby those who can influence the future direction of the profession - you need to vote 'yes'
- If you want a body that will help you improve the quality of care for your patients - you need to vote 'yes'
- If you want a body which will work to ensure proportionate and appropriate regulation by the new regulator - you need to vote 'yes'

When will the new professional body come into effect?

If the Charter changes receive a 'yes' vote from at least two-thirds of those voting, and have the necessary approvals, our new professional leadership body will come into effect in 2010. But it needs your vote to make it happen.

Where can you get more information on the changes?

For more information on the Charter vote, the new professional body, and how you can get more involved, visit www.pharmacyplb.com or speak to us by calling 0808 168 5141.

Why is the professional leadership body important?

The professional leadership body will have your interests at the heart of everything it does. It will be committed to representing and leading its members; listening to them and speaking for them; raising the status and the profile of the profession; and representing your interests to the regulatory body, to governments and to patients.

It will work as closely to its members as possible, using smart networking technology, local practice forums and other mechanisms to ensure its work is driven by the needs

and aspirations of the membership in England, Scotland and Wales.

How do you vote?

- Ballot papers, and details of how to vote, are being sent to all pharmacists
- The ballot paper includes a unique voter number
- The vote opens on the 22 June and closes on 20 July
- You can vote by post, internet, text or phone, using your unique voter number





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**Make sure your voice
is heard - your vote
counts. Vote 'yes' for
your professional future.**

What will the new professional leadership body provide?

- Active leadership, and a robust and effective voice for the profession
- Professional development and education, including CPD and future revalidation support, training courses, events and resources, and support for those wanting to develop skills for advanced or specialist areas of practice
- Professional networking opportunities and resources developed by and for pharmacists, including easily accessible web based services and the new Local Practice Forums
- Professional support through dedicated help-desks, access to online information services, professional publications and relevant and timely practice guidance
- An extensive range of other exclusive services and privileged benefits

How can you get involved?

- If you want to get involved, or to find out more, go to www.pharmacyplb.com, which is regularly updated with the latest news on the work underway to establish our new professional leadership body
- Call our dedicated freephone number, with advisors on hand from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Simply call us on 0808 168 5141
- The new professional leadership body is looking for pharmacists to sign-up to become PLB Pioneers. These members will act as spokespeople for the new body in professional media, spread the word about development of the body amongst colleagues and share opinions in order to shape the core services. Members interested in contributing as a Pioneer should visit the 'Become a PLB Pioneer' section of the website – www.pharmacyplb.com
- A monthly e-newsletter is keeping pharmacists up-to-date on all the latest news and developments. Pharmacists not yet receiving the newsletter can request it by visiting www.pharmacyplb.com

Pharmacists on the Royal Charter vote

Ravi Patel, Locum Pharmacist: "As a new generation pharmacist I want to be confident in what the future holds in store for the profession and its members, hence I will be voting 'yes' to the Charter changes this June."

Janice Perkins, Pharmacy Superintendent, The Co-operative Pharmacy: "I want a secure future for pharmacy so will be voting 'yes' to the Charter changes this June"

Peter Jones, Consultant Pharmacist, Edinburgh: "Pharmacy needs a robust and credible new leadership body – the Royal Charter is a prestigious, and hard won recognition of the Society's status and members should vote 'yes' for its retention in the updated version."

Zaynab Nejadhamzeeigilani, Pharmacist: "Having a new leadership body that will support me through my CPD is really important, this is why I will be voting 'yes' to the Royal Charter changes in June".

Marc Donovan, Regional Pharmacy Manager – Wales, Boots: "Making these amendments to the charter is the next key step in delivering the new professional leadership body and empowering pharmacist members in Wales to have a greater impact in how the profession develops and ensuring that they are able to access services that support their individual professional practice. I'll be voting 'yes' to allow this to happen".

Pharmacists on the new professional leadership body

Karen Macdonald, Community Pharmacist: "Pharmacy needs a public voice to promote the profession and support its members."

Pauline Daw, Clinical Pharmacist: "It is important to have a professional body to give leadership, guidance and support to its members."

Margaret Stone, Pharmacy Lecturer: "We need something to unify us and make us proud to be pharmacists."

