

# PRESS RELEASE

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PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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## **PSNC responds to Responsible Pharmacist Consultation**

PSNC has today submitted its response to the Department of Health consultation on the proposed Responsible Pharmacist regulations, jointly with the National Pharmacy Association, Company Chemists' Association and Association of Independent Multiple pharmacies.

The views of the four pharmacy bodies are aligned in many areas, and PSNC is pleased to be able to join the other pharmacy bodies in the response.

The consultation seeks comments on the regulations which will underpin the role of the Responsible Pharmacist, to ensure on a day to day basis, the safe operation of the pharmacy. Because the consultation does not address the framework for supervision of the sale or supply of non general sale list medicines, PSNC found it impossible to come to a final conclusion about the amount of time that a Responsible Pharmacist may be permitted to be absent from the pharmacy, and has urged the Department of Health to bring forward the consultation on supervision, without delay.

It is PSNC's position that pharmacies should have standard operating procedures established and reviewed by the owner/superintendent pharmacist jointly with the Responsible Pharmacist. The Responsible Pharmacist will assess whether the pharmacy will be able to operate safely on the day, in accordance with the SOPs. The proposals for regulations cover many areas which are already covered by the Code of Ethics, employment practices or policies for engaging locum pharmacists.

PSNC suggests that the proposals to consider legislating to set the level of experience or qualifications needed to act as Responsible Pharmacist are not necessary, since allowing owners sufficient flexibility to manage the employment of pharmacists in the role of Responsible Pharmacist provides suitable safeguards.

The joint response is available on [www.psn.org.uk/resources](http://www.psn.org.uk/resources)

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**Notes for editors:**

1. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is the body that represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to secure the best possible NHS services provided by pharmacy contractors in England and Wales.

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