

PSI to Place Notices on Consultation for Registering Pharmacies

Tuesday, April 8, 2008: PSI, the pharmacy regulator, has placed advertisements in the newspapers to advise the public on the opening of consultations regarding draft statutory rules that will underpin the registration of pharmacies.

A system for the registration of pharmacists and pharmacies was established under the Pharmacy Act 2007. On foot of the legislation, the PSI has developed draft statutory rules to set out in greater detail the process which will be followed by pharmacy owners registering with the PSI.

The draft rules set out that all pharmacies will be required to apply to be registered annually and each application must contain certain specified information. These include details of the ownership of the pharmacy, staffing details, location and layout of the premises and details of professional services provided. On receipt of this application the PSI may seek additional information or conduct an inspection of the pharmacy before allowing a pharmacy to be registered. Any changes in premises or personnel after registration will have to be notified to the PSI.

Dr Ambrose McLoughlin, Chief Executive and Registrar of the PSI, said the regulator is committed to consultation before new changes are brought in. "The registration of pharmacies and pharmacists is an important part of the new Pharmacy Act which is being brought into force in a structured way. The registration of both pharmacists and pharmacies is an important double protection for patients who we are legally bound to protect."

The draft rules are available to download from the PSI website www.pharmaceuticalsociety.ie and any comments may be sent by email to consultation@pharmaceuticalsociety.ie. Alternatively, comments may be submitted, in writing, to the PSI at 18 Shrewsbury Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

In addition, a consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 April with key stakeholders.

The deadline for receipt of submissions on the draft statutory rules is 12 noon, Monday 21 April, 2008.

The draft statutory rules will be finalised for approval by the Department of Health and Children at the end of the consultation period.

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Notes to editors:

1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the Pharmacy Regulator, is the statutory body for pharmacists and pharmacies in Ireland. It acts in the public interest to regulate the profession.
2. Over the coming months the PSI will undertake further public consultations on other draft statutory rules currently in development.