



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Requirement to Report Matters Related to Conduct and Fitness to Practise to the Society

Pharmacists are reminded that under Rule 5 of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (Fitness to Practise and Disqualification etc.) Rules 2007, which came into force 30th March 2007, a pharmacist must notify the Registrar in writing **within 7 days**, if he or she:

- (a) is convicted of any criminal offence;
- (b) accepts a police caution;
- (c) has, in summary proceedings in Scotland in respect of an offence, been the subject of an order discharging him or her absolutely (without proceeding to conviction);
- (d) has accepted a conditional offer under section 302 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (fixed penalty: conditional offer by procurator fiscal);
- (e) has agreed to pay a penalty under section 115A of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (penalty as an alternative to prosecution);
- (f) is notified by a regulatory body in the United Kingdom responsible under any enactment for the regulation of a health or social care profession of a determination to the effect that his or her fitness to practise is impaired, or a determination by a regulatory body elsewhere to the same effect;
- (g) becomes subject to an investigation into his or her fitness to practise by another regulatory body (apart from the Society);
- (h) becomes the subject of any fraud investigation by a body responsible for investigating fraud in relation to the health service (for example, the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service Division of the NHS Business Services Authority or NHS Scotland Counter Fraud Services, which is part of the Common Services Agency); and/or

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(i) is removed, contingently removed or suspended from, refused admission to or conditionally included in any list held by a health service body of performers or providers of pharmaceutical services on fitness to practise grounds.

The Director of the Fitness to Practice and Legal Affairs Directorate is authorised to accept notifications on behalf of the Registrar. The address the registrant should write to in order to inform the Society of any of the above is:

Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs Directorate
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
1 Lambeth High Street
London
SE1 7JN

Pharmacists have a responsibility under the current Code of Ethics to “behave with integrity and probity”. Pharmacists are further reminded that when the new Code of Ethics comes into force there is a similar provision that pharmacists “do not mislead or make claims that cannot be justified” and “promptly declare to the Society, your employer and other relevant authority any circumstances that may call into question your fitness to practise”. This would include notifying the police of their profession should they be charged with any offence.