



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Helping pharmacists achieve excellence

To:
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PRACTICE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
DIRECTORATE

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Dear Project Manager

Clinical Guidance: Schizophrenia (update)

Please find enclosed the response of the Pharmaceutical Society to the draft scope for the above clinical guidance.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. It also regulates pharmacy technicians on a voluntary basis, which is expected to become statutory under anticipated legislation. The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy.

The Society leads and supports the development of the profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

The Society has responsibility for a wide range of functions that combine to assure competence and fitness to practice. These include controlled entry into the profession, education, registration, setting and enforcing professional standards, promoting good practice, providing support for improvement, dealing with poor performance, dealing with misconduct and removal from the register.

If you have any queries regarding this document, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Meghna Joshi
Practice Pharmacist

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Schizophrenia update

Comments on the Scope

Stakeholder Comments

Please use this form for submitting your comments to the Institute.

1. Please put each new comment in a new row.
2. Please do not paste other tables into this table, as your comments could get lost – type directly into this table.
3. Please insert the **section number** in the 1st column. If your comment relates to the document as a whole, please put **'general'** in this column. **Please refer to section numbers and not page numbers.**

Name:	Ms Meghna Joshi
Organisation:	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Section number Indicate section number or 'general' if your comment relates to the whole document	Comments Please insert each new comment in a new row.
4.3.f	The stated intention in 4.3.f is to provide recommendations on clinical management in “use of early intervention services in the early treatment of people with schizophrenia.” A significant component, and arguably one of the most important aspects of early intervention services, is the treatment of young people under 18 years of age. Yet young people are specifically excluded from consideration in the guideline (4.1.2b). This would be most unhelpful and a missed opportunity to ensure developing early intervention services (of which there are many) that have access to good evidence based treatment guidance.
4.3.i	We believe that some consideration should be given to guidance on the management of patients with a dual diagnosis where substance misuse and schizophrenia coincide. Especially in cases where patients present with acute short term psychosis, possibly due to illicit substance misuse. This is a recognised problem, and an area where guidance is needed.