



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Helping pharmacists achieve excellence

John Ennis
Associate Director, Education & Quality
Skills for Health
2 Brewery Warf
Kendell Street
Leeds
LS10 1JR

10 January, 2008

Dear John

EDUCATION & REGISTRATION

DIRECTORATE

Support Staff Division

Telephone: 020 7572 2410

Facsimile: 020 7572 2506

e-mail: janet.flint@rpsgb.org

Skills for Health EQUIP consultation

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 practise. 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.

The Society has statutory obligations in respect of the quality assurance of pharmacy education through the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007. These obligations include the accreditation of degree courses for prospective pharmacists, the approval of providers, including tutors of postgraduate education and training that leads to an approved qualification and the approval of premises as being suitable for the postgraduate education and training of prospective pharmacists. Parallel powers covering prospective pharmacy technicians are expected to come into force during 2008.

It has been acknowledged by Skills for Health that the relationship between the eQuIP framework and the quality assurance frameworks of the statutory regulators and professional bodies, including the Society will require further exploration before the framework can be fully implemented. The Society's Preregistration Division has met with Skills for Health and explored the utilisation of these standards within pharmacy training sites. Further exploratory talks are needed to advance this further.

The White Paper *Trust Assurance and Safety- the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century*, published in February 2007 outlined the Government's intent to establish by 2010 a General Pharmaceutical Council, a new body responsible for the regulation of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. A new professional leadership body for the profession will also be established. New legislation setting out the statutory functions of the new regulator will be required and the eQuiP framework will be a useful contribution to the deliberations around these functions. Ongoing dialogue between Skills for Health, the Society and ultimately the GPharmC will also be necessary to fully explore the implications of the framework for the pharmacy sector.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Flint". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Head of Support Staff Regulation