



Consultation on standards for prescribing
Policy and Standards Department
The Health and Care Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

4th January 2013

Dear HCPC,

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional body for pharmacists in Great Britain. We represent all sectors of pharmacy in Great Britain and we lead and support the development of the pharmacy profession including the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, we promote the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

The RPS welcomes clear, robust standards for health and care professionals as we believe it will contribute to patient safety and improve outcomes.

We would also ask that the following points be taken into consideration:

- The standards have been aligned with the National Prescribing Centre Competency Framework for all Prescribers however there is somewhat large variation and certain points have not been incorporated.
- The standards are aimed to replace the existing standards of proficiency however much detail has been removed; therefore professional guidance from relevant professional bodies would be useful.
- The standards focuses mainly on education, and further guidance on practical aspects of prescribing may be useful.
- The section for independent prescribers should be clarified further; it could be read that only these three standards apply to independent prescribers and no other standards.
- Pharmacists are experts in medicines usage, advising patients on how best to take their medicines every day. Supplementary and independent prescribers would benefit greatly from establishing close links with their pharmacist colleagues and we would suggest that this is incorporated into the standards and/or accompanying guidance.

We hope these comments are useful and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation.

Kind regards,

Helen Chang
Senior Professional Support Pharmacist, RPS Support Manager