

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

National Healthcare Uniform Proposal: Workforce Consultation

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Response

Pharmacists and pharmacy teams are not included within the scope of this consultation. We are not sure if this is an oversight or if there is a reason as to why they have not been included.

We have engaged with pharmacist members working in hospitals and below is a brief commentary on our views.

During the pandemic, pharmacists, like other previously non-uniformed clinical staff, have been wearing scrubs. Overall, this has been positively received from an infection prevention and control perspective. Pharmacy staff have fed back that this is more comfortable and supports a professional and distinct image within the multidisciplinary team. Having a uniform can be one less thing to think about from a work perspective and can potentially improve workforce wellbeing.

Whilst the benefit of standardisation at a national level is clear, this standard uniform is only likely to be well received if it matches the standard that hospitals currently have. Pharmacists would not want to go backwards in this regard.

'Staff comfort' does not seem to be a distinct criterion in the consultation and we are of the opinion that it should be.

In terms of pharmacy, the whole of the pharmacy team including pharmacy technicians, clinically based medicines assistants etc would also need to be included. Each group would need their own identify, perhaps with a colour for all of pharmacy and any differentiation achieved through lanyards or different shades of colour (as per other groups). Uniform policy can, however, be an area that creates division, for example if applied differently to pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and managers



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