



FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICINE  
OF THE ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Submission of comments on the Consultation relating to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine Board of Trustees' recommendation to admit non-medically qualified individuals as members**

The closing dates for the receipt of any comments is 17.00 hrs on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

**Please complete:**

Name of person completing this form	Elen Jones	
Your Email address (optional)	Elen.jones@rpharms.com	
If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please give its name and state your capacity within the organisation	Organisation	Royal Pharmaceutical Society
	Capacity	Practice and Policy lead, Wales
If responding as an individual are you a member of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If responding as an individual and you are <u>not</u> a member of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine what is your interest in the proposal?		
Comments and the identity of the sender may be published in a Faculty report in relation to the consultation, do you give your permission for this?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

*When completed, this form should be sent to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine electronically, in Word format (not PDF) to [consultation@fpm.org.uk](mailto:consultation@fpm.org.uk) or by mail to the Faculty Office at 19 Angel Gate, 326a City Road, London, EC1V 2PT, United Kingdom.*

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional body for pharmacists in Great Britain. We represent all sectors of pharmacy 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.

We advocate that healthcare professionals should be able to make informed decisions and use their own professional judgement in determining which Professional body or Royal College provides the most relevant tools and guidance necessary to support their practice. We recognise that as a professional progresses in their career and as roles change over time, the representative body that best suits their professional needs might also change. We appreciate therefore, that widening the criteria for membership of an organisation can have the benefit of providing more choice for professionals.

We believe that when an organisation is able to offer meaningful affiliate membership, information about what tools, guidance and overall benefits to the professional must be clearly articulated and there is transparency in the status of affiliate membership. We are therefore pleased to note for instance that lines 103 to 110 of your consultation state clearly that affiliates will be eligible to attend face to face meetings but will not have voting rights etc.

There will be occasions when health professionals may require significant support and technical guidance to support their practice, where a dedicated professional body is needed to provide the appropriate level of support. The issue of revalidation provides a clear example of this and we are pleased to see this has been touched upon in line 168. We are working hard to ensure our pharmacist members are ready and prepared for revalidation; The RPS Roadmap describes the principles of the Foundation and Faculty development programmes, alongside the support, guidance, quality assurance and assessment tools needed to enable pharmacists to provide high quality person-centred care as well as to demonstrate their continued fitness to practice to the pharmacy regulator, the General Pharmaceutical Council. As the process of revalidation differs across professions, it is likely that affiliate

members would also continue to benefit from being members of their own professional body in order to be fully supported.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the above points in more detail.