

### 1. Introduction

In 2012 the Royal Pharmaceutical Society published professional standards for hospital pharmacy services across Great Britain (GB). Professional standards, such as these, support the development of safe, quality services that put patients and their needs first.

The standards provide the profession with developmental standards that are supportive, enabling and professionally challenging. They give a broad framework that can be used by Chief Pharmacists, Directors of Pharmacy and their teams to improve services, and to shape future services and pharmacy roles in order to deliver quality patient care.

In 2014 the professional standards were revisited in light of the findings from the Francis Review of events at Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust and the response to that review, the report of the National Advisory Group on the Safety of Patients in England (commonly referred to as the Berwick report). The standards were also reviewed to ensure that they aligned with developments in pharmacy and healthcare agendas in Scotland and Wales.

The 2014 review found that the ethos, scope and remit of the standards were already largely consistent with the recommendations of both Francis and Berwick, and developments in the Scottish and Welsh health systems. The fundamentals were therefore not changed however more emphasis was given to key themes such as the need to increase patient involvement and feedback in the development, delivery and improvement of pharmacy services. The importance of organisational culture and the need to provide services in a candid, transparent and open way in an environment that supports continuous learning was also given more focus.

This review has been triggered automatically by the review date given to the standards of 2017.

### 2. Process

This update will follow the RPS process for updating standards and guidance <https://www.rpharms.com/support-pdfs/professional-standards--guidance-and-frameworks-development-manual.pdf>.

Appendix 1 contains a flow diagram of the process used by the RPS to develop professional standards.

### 3. Governance

Accountability is via the RPS Professional Support and Standards team with regular reports to the RPS Executive and the RPS National Board Chairs Forum.

A project steering group reflecting the diversity of hospital pharmacy services across GB and including users of the standards, patient/lay representatives, other healthcare professions and representatives from systems regulators will support the updating of the standards (see appendix 2 for terms of reference including membership).

Wider engagement will be facilitated through an external reference group. Membership of the external reference group is open to pharmacists and their teams, healthcare professions interfacing with pharmacy services, systems and professional regulators, other relevant NHS bodies, and patients and the public.

### 4. Timescales

Update initiated	February 2017
Steering group and external reference group constituted	February//March 17
Literature review	March/April 17
Steering group meeting to confirm scope	March 17
External reference group webinar	April 17
Initial revisions	April/May 17
Second steering group meeting (confirm revisions)	June 17
Open consultation	July /August 17
Comments incorporated	September 17
Steering group meeting to finalise revisions	October 17
Production and Publication	November/December 17

# Appendix I: RPS professional standards development process

## RPS professional standards development process

