

Pharmacy Professional Regulation and the new General Pharmaceutical Council

Ken Jarrold CBE – Chair of the Pharmacy
Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group

My personal reflections on pharmacy and regulation



- **Experience as a manager and carer**
- **Learning about pharmacy – apprenticeship in Sheffield and Derby 1971-75**
- **Pharmacy and expertise in medication – the foundation of modern healthcare; transforming lives and life chances**
- **Community pharmacy and social wealth**
- **Regulation is about patient safety and maintaining professional standards. It therefore impacts on professional development**

Why we need a new regulator



- **As the pharmacy profession develops, so does the need for professional regulation to keep pace**
- **Government is harmonising regulation of health professionals according to a set of key principles**
- **These were set out in the White Paper *Trust, Assurance and Safety – the regulation of health professionals in the 21st century* in February 2007. It focused on measures to secure public protection and confidence, and aimed to deal with public perceptions that:**
 - **regulatory bodies are overly sympathetic to the professionals they regulate**
 - **there needs to be a clear separation of regulation from professional leadership**

The new vision for pharmacy regulation

- **To ensure patient and public safety is paramount**
- **To maintain public confidence in the pharmacy profession**
- **To be sufficiently agile to respond effectively to patient and public expectations, and drivers to improve care**

The General Pharmaceutical Council will be set up in 2010



- **The GPhC will be an independent regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and premises, aligned with the principles of *Trust, Assurance and Safety***
- **It will cover England, Scotland and Wales – and there is legislative provision for Northern Ireland for the future**
- **It is likely to have a Council of 10-15 people, with parity between lay and professional members, and all will be independently appointed**
- **All regulatory responsibilities will be transferred to the GPhC from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB)**

The GPhC's key functions

- **Setting and securing standards of practice, education and training, continuing professional development and conduct**
- **Registration of qualified and competent practitioners**
- **Registration, regulation and inspection of pharmacy premises**
- **Operating fitness to practise procedures to protect the public**
- **Enforcement responsibilities in relation to medicines and poisons legislation**

The benefits for professionals and the public



- **Sending a clear message that patient safety is paramount**
- **Ensuring registered professionals are fit to practise and to safely deliver services to patients**
- **Ensuring greater transparency about pharmacy regulation through greater involvement of lay people on the Council**
- **Ensuring the regulator has the agility to respond to public expectations and changes in service delivery requirements as they arise**
- **As appropriate, harmonising the regulation of health professionals so there is equity across professional groups**
- **Providing a framework for continuing professional development and revalidation**

Engaging with professionals is a central theme



- We are keen to hear your views at any time via the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group (PRLOG), which has been set up both to provide advice and engage with stakeholders
- There will be a number of consultations now that the *Health and Social Care Act 2008* has received Royal Assent
- We want to highlight the forthcoming consultation on the draft *Pharmacy Order 2009* which sets out the role, functions and powers of the GPhC
- There will be further important consultations on the rules and standards for the GPhC during 2009, and further legislative consultations

Working closely with those setting up the new professional body

- **The establishment of a new professional body to the same timetable as the GPhC is an important factor in the changes which are taking place**
- **The two new organisations will work in parallel, each with their own specific functions and complementary, but independent, responsibilities**
- **The identification of regulatory support and development for the GPhC is being led by the Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Manchester, Peter Noyce, who is also the professional advisor to PRLOG**

The GPhC – provisional timetable (Parliament permitting)



- **Consultation on the draft *Pharmacy Order 2009* – Autumn 2008**
- **Publish response to consultation – Early 2009**
- **GPhC chair advertised – Early 2009**
- **Affirmative process in Scottish Parliament and Westminster – Spring 2009**
- **GPhC Constitution Order consultation – Spring/Summer 2009**
- **GPhC established in shadow form – Summer 2009**
- **GPhC consults on standards and rules – Autumn 2009**
- **GPhC fully operational – 2010**

Regulation for a purpose

- **Why the GPhC is being set up**
- **Patient safety as the raison d'être and resulting impact on professional development**
- **How the GPhC is being set up**
- **Working closely with all the stakeholders and that includes you!**
- **Please give us the benefit of your expertise and experience – help us to get this right for patients, the public and the profession**
- **Please visit our exhibition stand for further information – no.55**