



12<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Dear Sirs

**Consultation to amend the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry 2008**

**Response from the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists represents UK wide around 4,000 pharmacists including the majority of hospital pharmacists, pharmacists employed by Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and pharmacists employed by other public bodies such as the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission. The Guild is part of the health sector of the union Unite.

(a) All of the proposals are to welcomed particularly the recommendations concerning 'promotional aids' under Clause 18.1

(b) We feel Clause 18.1 needs to repeat the 'note' under Clause 15.3 regarding responsibility for the registration and conduct of Pharmacists (page 25)

(c) Clause 18.4 Provision of Medical and Educational Goods and services, section (vi) "Sponsored health professionals should not be involved in the promotion of specific products" - We feel that this section should also include 'Pharmacists and Pharmacy technicians' and that reference should be made to the revised draft standards of conduct, ethics and performance from the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), the new regulator for Pharmacists and Pharmacy technicians from 2010, which will build on the existing Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's (RPSGB) Code of Ethics.

(d) Clause 18.5 Joint Working - We agree with everything proposed but believe that there should be an

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additional statement on 'post joint working projects' i.e. a statement regarding 'arrangements to maintain the provision of necessary resources and hence maintain the outcomes of the project in the best interests of the patients'. We are aware that there have been instances where Pharmaceutical companies have entered into time limited projects with NHS Trusts but resources from other parties did not continue at the end of the projects, which, potentially, could have affected patient care outcomes. Other (fortunate) solutions had to be secured.

We hope these comments are of assistance

Our reply may be made freely available.

Yours faithfully

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