



22nd November 2011

Fundamental Review Project Team
Room 3E48,
Quarry House
Quarry Hill,
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Fundamental Review of Data Returns

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 NHS Primary Care organisations and pharmacists employed by other public bodies such as Prisons and the Care Quality Commission. The Guild is part of the health sector of the union Unite.

We wish to make the following comments on one particular area of the consultation paper:

Health and Safety / Emergency Preparedness (including Patient Safety)

Section 3.19

We agree that the "the central function of collecting reports of patient safety incidents, analysing them in order to learn the lessons for the system, and disseminating that learning to allow the NHS to take action to reduce errors recurring, " is vital. The work of the National Reporting and Learning Service has proved to be effective in improving patient safety within the NHS. We feel that functions of the NPSA must therefore be retained as well as maintaining the communication of the learning points from previous incidents.

However, we request in what form the 'work of the NPSA' is to be transferred to the NHS Commissioning Board and how that will reflect the upcoming changes in UK legislation that will be required as we implement the EU Directive on Pharmacovigilance?

We also wish to comment that increased marketisation of the healthcare system and increases in providers through schemes like AQP will by their nature lead to increased data requirements. This needs to be addressed or the costs of contract management included in any future commissioning must be considered.

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Section 3.20

Again we agree that the Central Alerting System is also vital component of the system to alert the NHS to risk and disseminate information on actions to mitigate risk to patients.

We hope these comments are of assistance. Our reply may be made freely available.

Yours faithfully

Barry Corbett
Professional Secretary
Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists

Sheila Maltby
Regional Member – Northern Ireland
Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists.