



# Removal from the General Pharmaceutical Council register

**January 2012**

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## Introduction

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) maintains a register of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Inclusion in this register is a prerequisite to practising in Great Britain and registrants must satisfy the GPhC that they meet the requirements. Anyone practising as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician who is not registered with the GPhC is breaking the law and can be prosecuted.

The GPhC also maintains a register of pharmacy premises and will shortly be consulting on the standards for pharmacy premises.

Each year, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must renew their registration by completing a declaration stating that they meet all the GPhC's professional, fitness to practise and ethical standards. Registration of pharmacy premises must also be renewed annually.

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who do not renew their registration after expiry are removed from the register. Pharmacy premises are also removed. Applications to be restored to the relevant register can be made.

In order to provide NHS pharmaceutical services pharmacy premises, pharmacists who own a pharmacy as a sole trader or partnership, and superintendent pharmacists of bodies corporate who operate pharmacies must be registered with the GPhC.

## Removal

The requirement for annual registration was first introduced in 2011. Previously the regulatory body was the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and annual registration was not required.

In order to renew their entry in the register registrants were required to renew their registration by 31 October 2011. Those who failed to do so have been notified that they have been removed from the relevant register with effect from 1 January 2012.

The GPhC has notified all relevant registrants and details of who has been removed can be found on the [GPhC website](#).

## Action to be taken by PCTs

PCTs are advised to check the list of pharmacists and pharmacy premises that have been removed from the register and identify any:

- Premises that are included in their pharmaceutical list
- Pharmacists who are either sole traders or in partnerships, and are included in their pharmaceutical list as contractors
- Pharmacists who are superintendent pharmacists for bodies corporate who are included in their pharmaceutical list.

If the PCT identifies premises or pharmacists who are contractors (whether as a sole trader, partnership or body corporate) that are included in the PCT's pharmaceutical list the PCT should then check the [relevant register](#) to see if the registration has been successfully restored. If it has then no further action is required although the PCT may wish to write to the appropriate contractor and remind them of the requirement to maintain registration.

If the contractor has failed to renew a registration (either as a pharmacist or for their premises) the PCT should write reminding them of the requirement to maintain registration and ask them to provide evidence that they have applied to restore the registration.

Where the contractor has applied to restore registration (either as a pharmacist or for their premises) they should be asked to confirm the outcome of their application. As annual renewal is a new requirement PCTs may not wish to take any formal action where the contractor has applied.

Where the contractor has failed to apply to restore the registration or fails to respond to the PCT's letter then the PCT will need to assess the level of risk to patient safety and may wish to exercise its fitness to practise powers. This could include suspension, contingent removal or removal of the contractor from the pharmaceutical list.

Where a contractor has failed to renew the registration of their premises, the PCT should first check whether pharmaceutical services are being provided at the premises. If they are then the PCT should consider referring the matter to the GPhC for investigation. The PCT will also need to assess the level of risk to patient safety and may wish to exercise its fitness to practise powers.

PCTs are advised to send all letters "recorded signed for" and to keep evidence of delivery and may wish to seek legal advice before exercising their fitness to practise powers.