
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2022 No. 849

**The Pharmacy (Responsible Pharmacists,
Superintendent Pharmacists etc.) Order 2022**

PART 2

Responsible pharmacists and superintendent pharmacists

Responsible pharmacists

5.—(1) Section 72A of the 1968 Act⁽¹⁾ (the responsible pharmacist) is amended as follows.

(2) Before subsection (1) insert the following subsection—

“(A1) Nothing in this Part is to be taken as requiring there to be a responsible pharmacist in respect of premises at or from which a retail pharmacy business is carried on at a time when no medicinal products (whether they are on a general sale list or not) are being—

- (a) offered or exposed for sale by retail or supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale at or from the premises, or
- (b) assembled, prepared or dispensed at or from the premises with a view to such sale or supply.”.

(3) In subsection (2), for “the Ministers in regulations” substitute “the General Pharmaceutical Council in rules in relation to premises in Great Britain or the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland in regulations in relation to premises in Northern Ireland”.

(4) Omit subsections (3) to (5).

(5) For subsections (6) and (7) substitute the following subsections—

“(6) The General Pharmaceutical Council may make further provision in rules in relation to the responsible pharmacist in respect of premises in Great Britain, and the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland may make further provision in regulations in relation to the responsible pharmacist in respect of premises in Northern Ireland.

(6A) In making any such provision, the General Pharmaceutical Council and the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland must have regard to the principle that the burdens imposed on businesses by rules or regulations should be the minimum necessary to secure the benefits, considered in general terms, which are expected to result from the rules or regulations.

(7) The rules and regulations mentioned in subsection (6) may (amongst other things)—

- (a) make further provision about the matters mentioned in subsection (1);
- (b) make provision about the responsible pharmacist’s absence from the premises.

(7A) If such rules or regulations make provision about the responsible pharmacist’s absence from the premises, they must also provide that the retail sale of medicinal products

⁽¹⁾ Section 72A was inserted by the Health Act 2006 (c. 28), section 30(1), and amended by S.I. 2006/2407.

on a general sale list may continue at or from the premises during any period in which the responsible pharmacist is absent from the premises.”.

(6) Omit subsection (8).

Superintendent pharmacists

6.—(1) In section 71 of the 1968 Act⁽²⁾ (business carried on by body corporate)—

(a) in subsection (1), for paragraph (a) (and the following “and”), substitute the following paragraph—

“(a) that there is a superintendent in relation to the retail pharmacy business in respect of whom the requirements specified in subsection (6) are fulfilled, and”;

(b) in subsection (6)—

(i) after paragraph (a), insert the following paragraph—

“(aa) he is a senior manager of the retail pharmacy business who has the authority to make decisions that affect the running of the retail pharmacy business so far as concerns—

(i) the retail sale of medicinal products (whether they are on a general sale list or not), and

(ii) the supply of such products in circumstances corresponding to retail sale,
and”;

(ii) in paragraph (b), omit “and stating whether he is a member of the board of that body or not”, and omit “, and” at the end of the paragraph, and

(iii) omit paragraph (c);

(c) before subsection (8), insert the following subsection—

“(7A) For the purposes of subsection (6)(aa), a person is a senior manager of a retail pharmacy business if the person plays a significant role (irrespective of whether other individuals also do so) in—

(a) the making of decisions about how the whole or a substantial part of its activities are to be managed or organised, or

(b) the actual managing or organising of the whole or a substantial part of those activities.”;

(d) in subsection (8)—

(i) for the words from “If a person” to “ceases to do so” substitute “If a person who has been the superintendent in relation to a retail pharmacy business ceases to be the superintendent in relation to the business”, and

(ii) for “manage the business” substitute “be the superintendent in relation to the business”; and

(e) omit subsection (9).

(2) After section 72A of the 1968 Act (the responsible pharmacist) insert the following section—

(2) Section 71 was substituted by the Health Act 2006 (c. 28), section 28, and then amended by S.I. 2010/231, 2011/2647 and 2019/593.

“The superintendent

72AA. It is the duty of the superintendent in relation to a retail pharmacy business to secure that the business is at all times carried on in ways that ensure its safe and effective running so far as concerns—

- (a) the retail sale of medicinal products (whether they are on a general sale list or not), and
- (b) the supply of such products in circumstances corresponding to retail sale.”

(3) In section 78 of the 1968 Act⁽³⁾ (restrictions on use of titles, descriptions and emblems), in subsection (3)(b), omit the words from “, and that the pharmacist who” to “body corporate”.

Standards of conduct, ethics and performance

7.—(1) In article 48 of the Pharmacy Order 2010⁽⁴⁾ (standards of conduct and performance), after paragraph (1) insert the following paragraphs—

“(1A) The standards set under this article may include standards which relate only to the conduct, ethics and performance expected of registered pharmacists who are—

- (a) responsible pharmacists for the purposes of sections 70 to 72 of the Medicines Act 1968, or
- (b) superintendent pharmacists.

(1B) Where the standards set under this article include standards of the type mentioned in paragraph (1A), the standards may include a description of the professional responsibilities of responsible pharmacists or (as the case may be) superintendent pharmacists.”

(2) In paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976⁽⁵⁾ (standards of conduct and performance), after sub-paragraph (1) insert the following sub-paragraphs—

“(1A) The standards set under this paragraph may include standards which relate only to the conduct, ethics and performance expected of registered persons who are—

- (a) responsible pharmacists for the purposes of sections 70 to 72 of the Medicines Act 1968, or
- (b) superintendent pharmacists for the purposes of section 71 of that Act.

(1B) Where the standards set under this paragraph include standards of the type mentioned in sub-paragraph (1A), the standards may include a description of the professional responsibilities of responsible pharmacists or (as the case may be) superintendent pharmacists.”

The Medicines (Pharmacies) (Responsible Pharmacist) Regulations 2008

8.—(1) The Medicines (Pharmacies) (Responsible Pharmacist) Regulations 2008⁽⁶⁾ (“the 2008 Regulations”) are revoked.

(2) Despite the revocation of the 2008 Regulations by paragraph (1) and the amendments made to sections 72A, 84 and 108 of the 1968 Act by this Order—

- (a) in Great Britain—

(3) Section 78 was amended by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1993 (c. 50), Schedule 1(12), paragraph 1, the Health Act 2006 (c. 28), section 27, and S.I. 2010/231 and 2019/593.

(4) S.I. 2010/231.

(5) S.I. 1976/1213 (N.I. 22). Schedule 3 was substituted by the Pharmacy (1976 Order) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 (S.R. 2012/308) and has been amended by the Data Protection Act 2018 (c. 12), Schedule 19, paragraph 17, and by S.I. 2015/806.

(6) S.I. 2008/2789; amended by S.I. 2010/231.

- (i) the 2008 Regulations continue to have effect (as if they had not been revoked) until the first rules made by the General Pharmaceutical Council under section 72A of the 1968 Act come into force, and
 - (ii) sections 72A(3) to (5) and 84(A1) of the 1968 Act continue to have effect (as if they had not been repealed) until that time; and
- (b) in Northern Ireland—
- (i) the 2008 Regulations continue to have effect (as if they had not been revoked) until the first regulations made by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland under section 72A of the 1968 Act come into operation, and
 - (ii) sections 72A(3) to (5) and 84(A1) of the 1968 Act continue to have effect (as if they had not been repealed) until that time.
- (3) Until the first rules made by the General Pharmaceutical Council under section 72A of the 1968 Act come into force, section 108(6B) to (6D) and (10) of the 1968 Act (as amended by Schedule 1) are to be read as if the references in those provisions to rules were references to regulations.

Amendments consequential on articles 5 and 6

9. Schedule 1 makes amendments that are consequential on articles 5 and 6.